Foreign Broadcast Information Service

50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-050
Thursday
14 March 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-050 14 March 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Opposition Conference Ends 13 Mar 1
Recommendations Issued *[London KUNA]* 1
Tasks for Overthrowing Regime Noted *[SANA]* 2
Congress Vows To Escalate Uprising *[Beirut Radio]* 2
Opposition Leaders Interviewed *[Damascus TV]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman on Delegation's Talks With Baker *[Algiers VOP]* 3
Memorandum Delivered *[Algiers VOP]* 4
'Arafat on UN Resolutions *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Further on Abu Sharif Remarks on Concessions 4
Interviewed on 'Different Ideas' *[London International]* 4
Remarks Disowned *[Algiers VOP]* 5
'Arafat Sends Message to Mitterrand *[Algiers VOP]* 5
'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process, Relations *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 12 Mar]* 5
Former PNC Speaker Demands New Leadership *[MENA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamrouche Chairs Government Session 10 Mar *[APS]* 8
General Strike Begins: High Response Noted 8
First Day Detailed *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Second Day Detailed *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Results of Strike Assessed *[Algiers Radio]* 9
TV Broadcasts 24-Hour Telethon To Support Iraq *[APS]* 10
Firms To Help in Reconstruction of Iraq *[APS]* 10
National Liberation Front on Solidarity With Iraq *[APS]* 10

Egypt

Diplomatic Relations With Iran To Resume 26 Mar *[MENA]* 10
'Arafat Request To Visit for Talks Rejected *[WAKH]* 11
'Abd-al-Majid Asks PLO for 'Explicit' Stand *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Palestinian Official Praises Mubarak Stand *[MENA]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Diplomatic Relations Established With Romania *[WAKH]* 12

Kuwait

'Arafat's 'Impudent Accusations' Denounced
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 7 Mar] 12

Saudi Arabia

Dutch Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Riyadh *[Hilversum International]* 13
Prince Sa'ud Urges Israeli Move *[Riyadh TV]* 13
Asks Kingdom To Influence Israel *[Hilversum International]* 13
Talks Called 'Useful' *[SPA]* 13
Interior Minister's News Conference on Pilgrimage *[Riyadh TV]* 13

IRAQ

RCC Issues Pardon for Prisoners 13 Mar *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
'Violation' of Mission Buildings in U.S. Cited *[INA]* 15
'Special' Ties Between Leadership, People Cited *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Statement on People's Love, Devotion to Saddam *[Prague Radio]* 16
Friendship Group Cables Support to Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
AL-JUMHURIYAH: 'Continuous Effort' Needed *[INA]* 17
Party Offices Said Seized, Official Killed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 17
'Little Outward Sign' of Unrest in Baghdad *[Tokyo KYODO]* 17
16 Guards Officers, Troops Defect to Rebels *[Tehran Radio]* 18
Clashes Continue in Southern Cities *[Tehran Radio]* 18
Al-Hallah Taken; Babil Officials Executed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 18
Reportage on Kurdish Struggle To Capture Karkuk 19
Bridges Demolished *[IRNA]* 19
'Pitched Battles' Raging *[IRNA]* 19
Three Helicopters Downed *[IRNA]* 19
Kurdish Rebels Advance Toward Dahuk Governorate *[IRNA]* 19
Opposition Forces Claim Captured Cities, Areas *[Damascus Radio]* 19
Minister Lists Mosques, Churches Damaged by War *[INA]* 19
Refugees Describe Demonstrations, Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 20
Opposition May Establish New Front After Congress *[Tehran Radio]* 20
Information Minister's Brother Killed in Uprising *[Tehran Radio]* 21
Gas Resupply, Flour Quotas Increase Noted *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Journal Reports on Status of Oil Installations *[AFP]* 21
Unemployment Among Demobilized Soldiers Reported *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 11 Mar]* 22

ISRAEL

Shamir Interviewed on Baker Visit *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Shamir Rejects Superpower Sponsorship of Talks *[DAVAR 14 Mar]* 27
Shoval Remarks on Outcome of Talks With Baker *[Tel Aviv TV]* 27
Arens Discusses POW Deal, Peace Prospects *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Military Control Center Accepted 'in Principle' *[HA'ARETZ 14 Mar]* 30
Netanyahu: No Comment on Proposal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Sinyurah Comments on Reported Abu-Sharif Plan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Public Opinion Polls on Postwar Situation, Peace 31
Many See Opportunity for Peace *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Mar]* 31
Nation Split on Land for Peace *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Mar]* 31
Netanyahu Urges Iraqi Disarmament, Reparations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Shu'fat Curfew Lifted; Police Presence Continues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Arabs Allowed Entry Into Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Entry Ban Reimposed 14 Mar *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Spain's Fernandez-Ordonez Arrives for Visit 12 Mar 32
Briefed by Levi on Baker Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Says Mideast Dialogue Should Start *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Meets Palestinian Leaders *[Madrid Radio]* 33
Madrid Radio Reports Meetings 33
Sees Better Dialogue Attitude *[Madrid Radio]* 34
More on Talk With Palestinians *[MA'ARIV 14 Mar]* 34
Sharon Returns as Aliyah Committee Chairman *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Levi Leaves for Talks in Germany 13 Mar *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Cancels Paris Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

Minister Ne'eman Plans 'Secret' Visit to USSR *[HA'ARETZ 14 Mar]* 35
Sharon Notes Jewish Demand for Territories Housing *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35

JORDAN

King Husayn Interviewed on Peace Prospects *[JORDAN TIMES 14-15 Mar]* 36
Al-Masri Welcomes Bush's Remarks to Congress *[PETRA-JNA]* 36
Prince Hasan Welcomes U.S. Statements on Peace *[Amman Radio]* 37
Decrease in Refugees From Iraq, Kuwait Reported *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Mar]* 38
Red Crescent Team Leaves for Baghdad 12 Mar *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* 38

LEBANON

Car Bomb Kills Al-Wa'd Party Leader's Driver *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 39
Al-Ta'if Accord To Be Implemented on Schedule *[VOL]* 39
Italian Foreign Minister Meets Al-Hirawi 11 Mar *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Holds Talks With Leaders *[Rome TV]* 39
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 39

SYRIA

Reportage on U.S. Secretary Baker's Visit 40
Baker Arrives in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Discusses Issues With Al-Asad *[SANA]* 40
Presidential Spokesman on Talks *[AFP]* 40
Lebanese Minister Arrives for Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Buwayz Begins Talks With Baker *[VOM]* 41
Baker Holds News Conference, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Italian Foreign Minister Arrives With Delegation *[SANA]* 42
Talks With Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Meets With Al-Asad 12 Mar *[SANA]* 42
Holds News Conference *[SANA]* 42
Departs 12 Mar *[SANA]* 43
Paper Assails Israeli Statements on Peace, Mid East *[Damascus Radio]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Law Officers, Judges *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Pakistani Intelligence Service Aids Rebel Moves *[AFP]* 46
Mujahidin Repulse Armored Attack in Lowgar *[Islamabad Radio]* 46

India

Election Commissioner on Preparation for Polls *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Parties Announce Issues, Alliances for Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Upcoming Elections To Raise 'Bitter Issues' *[AFP]* 47
U.S. Report on Apartheid in Fiji Welcomed *[Delhi Radio]* 48
USSR Appreciates Delhi's Position on Gulf War *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Kuwait Envoy Says War Position To Prove Costly *[INDIAN EXPRESS 4 Mar]* 48
Delhi Prepares for Share in Gulf Reconstruction *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Kuwait Seeks Support for Projects *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Commentary Views Bangladesh Elections, Relations *[Delhi International]* 50
Morocco Seeks Expertise in Nuclear, Other Fields *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Kashmir Police Charge Soldiers With Mass Rape *[AFP]* 50
Spokesman Denies Army Involvement *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Pakistan-Trained Militants Surrender in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Prevention of Misusing Official Property Urged *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Velayati Meets Lebanese Hizballah Officials *[Tehran TV]* 51
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With War Disabled *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Refugees Describe Karbala' Area Fighting *[IRNA]* 52
Black Smoke, Acid Rain Over Khuzestan Province *[IRNA]* 52
Smoke Spreads to West Azerbaijan *[IRNA]* 52
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tours Western Provinces *[IRNA]* 52
Tehran Demands Treaty Before Returning Planes
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 7 Mar] 52
Voice, Vision Chief Speaks on War Coverage *[Tehran Radio]* 53
UN Chief Says Gulf Security To Include Iran *[Tehran TV]* 53
Commentary Views Rift in Turkey's Ruling Party *[Tehran International]* 54
Turkish, Iranian Treatment of Kurds Condemned *[Voice of Iranian Kurdistan]* 54
Greek Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[IRNA]* 55
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 56
Comments on Tehran Talks *[IRNA]* 56
Holds News Conference With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Chinese Defense Official Begins Tehran Talks *[Tehran TV]* 57
Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Mar *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Meets With Velayati *[IRNA]* 58
Oil Minister on Cooperation With USSR, Qatar *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Tehran To Host International Oil, Gas Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Militant Clerics Group Condemns U.S. Presence *[KEYHAN 27 Feb]* 59
Ahmad Khomeyni Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracy' *[Tehran TV]* 60
Reward for Killing Rushdie Reportedly Doubled *[IRNA]* 60
Majles Ratifies Abbreviations in Armed Forces *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Officials Inaugurate Gorgan Radio, TV Facility *[Tehran Radio]* 61
* Secret Police Begin Patrols in Tehran *[London KEYHAN 10 Jan]* 61
* Consultant to Atomic Energy Agency Appointed *[KEYHAN-E HAVAT 16 Jan]* 61
* New 10th Army Commander, Budget Official Named *[KEYHAN-E HAVAT 23 Jan]* 61
* Ruzbehani Appointed to Oppressed Foundation *[KEYHAN-E HAVAT 30 Jan]* 62
* Mostafavi Receives New Appointment 13 Feb *[KEYHAN-E HAVAT 13 Feb]* 62
Commentary Views Possible Post-Saddam Scenarios *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Feb]* 62
U.S. Silence on Iraq Uprising Criticized *[IRNA]* 63
Saddam Urged To Acquiesce to People's Will *[IRNA]* 63
Editorial Notes Saddam's Political 'Blunder' *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Feb]* 63
Editorial Examines Role of UN Security Council *[TEHRAN TIMES 3 Mar]* 64
Commentary Views Syria's Strengthened Position *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Commentary on UN's 'Tepid' Performance in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Commentary on European-American Differences *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Commentary Views Soviet Role in Gulf Crisis *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Tehran Allegedly Buying Arms From Czechoslovakia *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 67

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Congress Party Defeats Left in Association Polls *[AFP]* 67
Bhattarai Issues Party's Election Manifesto *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Nepali Congress Leader Receives Peace Award *[AFP]* 67
Finance Minister Submits Supplementary Budget *[AFP]* 68
Students, Police Clash; Seven Persons Injured *[AFP]* 68

Pakistan

Killer of Iranian Diplomat Sentenced to Death *[AFP]* 68
Islamabad Radio Report 69
Paper Opposes Platt as New U.S. Ambassador *[THE MUSLIM 12 Mar]* 69
Kuwait Embassy Reopened; Pakistan Support Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Bhutto's Party Protests Against 'Victimization' *[AFP]* 70

Ministers of State for Law, Sports Announced *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
State Ministers Named; Portfolios Not Announced *[Islamabad International]* 71
Finance Minister on Foreign Debt, Inflation Rate *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Balochistan Official Arrested in Heroin Seizure *[AFP]* 71

Sri Lanka

President Announces Cabinet 'Mini-Reshuffle' *[AFP]* 71
Military Offensive Begins North of Vavuniya *[Colombo International]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Opposition Conference Ends 13 Mar

Recommendations Issued

LD1303233491 London KUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Beirut, 13 Mar (KUNA) - The Iraqi opposition conference ended in the Lebanese capital today and issued the following recommendations:

The setting up of a council for national salvation to deal with all the contingencies that consolidate the uprising in Iraq.

To make the necessary efforts to freeze Iraq's membership in international and regional forums, for example, at the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The setting up of a committee for supporting field action of the uprising and providing for its needs.

Rapid efforts for the recognition of the Iraqi opposition as a representative of the Iraqi people and the stripping of the Saddam regime of its representation capacity.

The sending of delegations to various countries in the world and to international organizations to ask for support for the popular uprising in Iraq.

The setting up of a fund for supporting the uprising provided that contact is made with Iraqi groupings in exile.

The setting up of a committee for the collection of information, the release of all political detainees, and the revelation of the fate of the abducted.

The launching of a worldwide campaign to prevent the Iraqi regime from using chemical weapons.

The setting up of representations and committees for the Iraqi opposition.

The securing of foodstuffs and medicine, and asking the International Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations to arrange for their transportation to Iraq.

The setting up of a central information committee, with branch information offices whenever possible.

The concluding statement thanked representatives of the Republic of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Kuwait, and the Lebanese national Islamic movements, the Arab national liberation movements, the organzations working in the field of defense of human rights, and the representatives of international and regional organizations who attended the conference and supported the struggle of the people of Iraq against dictatorship and terrorism.

The concluding statement condemned the confiscation of the people's liberties, the violation of human rights in Iraq, the scorched earth policy in Iraq's Kurdistan, the destruction of villages and the forced displacement of their inhabitants, and the use of chemical weapons.

The statement also denounced the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens from Iraq, the expropriation of their property, and the withdrawal of their Iraqi nationality.

It also denounced the aggressive war against Iran and the aggressive war against Kuwait and the attempt to annex it to Iraq against the will of the Iraqi people. This led to the killing, wounding, maiming, imprisoning, and disappearance of hundreds of thousands of people, after the Iraqi regime had forced the Iraqi Army into an unequal battle without clear objectives, which led to the destruction of this Army.

It also referred to the loss of Iraq's pan-Arab role at the hands of Saddam Husayn's regime, its isolation from its Arab and Islamic environment in an attempt to destroy solidarity among the Arab and the Islamic countries, and its waste of Iraq's capabilities in wars which have nothing to do with the national Arab and Islamic causes, causing grave damage to the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people, and weakening its intifadah.

The final statement pointed out that Saddam Husayn's regime created grave conditions in the Middle East and provided excuses for intensifying foreign military presence there and for weakening regional powers, which will reflect negatively on the future of the region and its political decision.

The conference hailed the struggle of the Iraqi people against dictatorship over the last two decades and devoted an important part of its sessions to the popular uprising, which is ablaze in Iraq, and which expresses the ambitions of all groups of the Iraqi people.

The struggle seeks to topple the regime and to set up a national alternative which rests on the will of the masses.

The conference appealed to the masses of the Arab and Islamic nations, to the United Nations and international organizations, and to all supporters of human rights to assist the Iraqi uprising and to support it morally and materially.

It was decided to issue an appeal in this regard and to undertake a swift initiative in Arab, Islamic, and foreign countries. The statement pointed out that Iraqi opposition delegations will undertake a tour of those countries.

The final statement of the conference pointed out that the discussion and recommendations were unanimously approved by the participants and stipulated the following:

First, the means of supporting the uprising at Iraqi, Arab, and international levels and action toward developing it in the field and spreading it to all parts of Iraq.The conference decided to address an appeal to the Iraqi Army to join the ranks of the rebels.

Second, to work toward developing the organizational and structural frames of the unity of the Iraqi opposition by absorbing all its factions and achieving comprehensive unity of all its forces together with all the various affiliations of the Iraqi people, trends, nationalities, and creeds. The statement pointed out that the Iraqi opposition is working toward holding a second session of its conference at an appropriate time, depending on new circumstances.

Third, the conference defined the immediate tasks facing the Iraqi people aimed at toppling Saddam Husayn's regime and dictatorial rule and at eradicating all the consequences of his invasion of Kuwait, including the foreign occupation of beloved parts of our country, and the formation of a provisional coalition government from among opposition forces which will undertake the responsibility of eradicating all traces of dictatorship and abolishing all aspects of political, nationalist, religious, and sectarian discrimination, for finding a just solution to the Kurdish question, and for guaranteeing the rights of national minorities such as the Turkmen and the Syrians, a matter which consolidates national unity and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood.

Fourth, placing Iraq's Arab and Islamic relations on a firm basis and laying the foundation for dealing with other countries of the world on the basis of equality and the preservation of Iraq's integrity and independence.

The conference pointed out that these objectives will not be achieved without toppling Saddam Husayn's regime, using as a basis the holding of direct and free elections during a period defined for setting up a constituent council which will draft the country's permanent constitution defining its political and social system according to the will of the people.

Tasks for Overthrowing Regime Noted

NC1303222691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Beirut, 13 Mar (SANA)—The final statement issued by the general congress of the Iraqi opposition forces today calls on Arab, Islamic, and international organizations and all defenders of human rights to support the uprising [intifadah] in Iraq. It was decided that an appeal to this effect will be issued and rapid actionn, including the dispatch of delegations to various states, will be undertaken.

At the end of its meetings today, the congress also decided to establish committees to support the uprising and to hold a second session at the appropriate time and in accordance with new circumstances.

The statement outlines the immediate tasks to secure the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. They include the establishment of a provisional government, the just solution of the Kurdish problem, the recognition of freedoms on the basis of political pluralism, holding free and direct elections, and forming a constituent council to draft a Constitution of the country.

The congress also approved recommendations submitted by various committees. These recommendations include:

—Creating a national salvation committee and dealing with the emergency situation resulting from the uprising.

—Exerting efforts to secure the suspension of the current Iraqi Government's membership in the United Nations, the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

—Establishing special committees to support the uprising in the field.

—Working diligently to secure Arab, Islamic, and international recognition of the opposition as the representative of the Iraqi people until the Iraqi regime is overthrown.

—Forming a provisional government which will hold free elections.

—Dispatching delegations to various states, international organizations, and public opinion establishments to secure support for the uprising.

—Setting up a fund to support the intifadah.

—Establishing a committee to gather data on the Iraqi regime's human rights abuses.

The Iraqi opposition forces held their general congress in Beirut at the initiative of the Joint Action Committee. In addition to the parties represented on the committee and which signed the 27 December 1990 statement, the congress was attended by representatives of the Free Iraq Council, the Iraqi National Detente, other forces, a number of independent figures from the various ideological, religious, and political movements, and representatives of trade unions, social, and professional organizations.

Congress Vows To Escalate Uprising

NC1303170991 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition congress ended its meetings in Beirut today. It adopted recommendations and resolutions calling for the escalation of the popular uprising against the regime of Saddam Husayn. It also called on the Iraqi Army to rebel against this regime while stressing adherence to Iraq's unity.

Sources in the congress said that the opposition leaders will send envoys to Arab and Western states to seek their support. The opposition leaders will set up a fund to finance the opposition movement and coordinate military action among the rebels inside Iraq.

Opposition Leaders Interviewed

NC1303155991 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Interview with Iraqi opposition leaders Dr. Sahib al-Hakim, secretary of the Iraqi Human Rights Organization; Hasan al-'Alawi, Iraqi journalist and political expert in Iraqi affairs; and Shukri Zaki, spokesman for the Iraqi Reconciliation Movement [harakat al-wifaq al-'iraqi] by unidentified reporter in Beirut on 12 March]

[Excerpts] [reporter] Dr. Sahib al-Hakim, secretary of the Iraqi Human Rights Organization. What can you tell us about human rights violations in Iraq since Iraq, under current circumstances, is considered one of the first countries to violate human rights, according to UN documents?

[Al-Hakim] Iraq is on the first list of countries violating human rights. This is not an allegation by our organization, which is defending the Iraqis, but is a report from international organizations, including our organization, the United Nations, Amnesty International, and the Human Rights Commission in America. We have glaring examples that what is being done by the Iraqi regime is unprecedented by any other regime. For example, a UN commission on people detained against their will issued its report for the year 1991 which stated that more than 3,046 people are missing. What is important is that the report includes the names of the thousands of missing people, their addresses, jobs, how they disappeared, and the names of those who testified against them. The Iraqi regime also imprisons the families of detainees when they report on their missing relatives. This means that scores of people detained for political reasons which have nothing to do with the war, have disappeared in the jails of the Iraqi regime because of their opposition to that regime. What is also unprecedented by any other regime is the eviction of people. Iraq expelled thousands of Iraqis from Iraq after it deprived them of their property and even their documents and money. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Hasan al-'Alawi, Iraqi journalist and political expert in Iraqi affairs, from the Arab and international media department.

[Al-'Alawi] I believe the conference is successful, even if it stops at this level, and even if it does not issue resolutions. The reason for its success, I believe, is that those participating had agreed to general goals before the conference opened. These goals define Iraq's future. However, the administrative structure of the Iraqi opposition is still incomplete. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Shukri Zaki, how can the popular uprising and the brave resistance which is taking place in more than 20 cities and areas in southern, central, and northern Iraq, be supported?

[Zaki] In fact, the uprising cannot continue and turn into a sweeping revolution capable of toppling the regime unless it wins support from more than one side. Regarding the Iraqi opposition forces outside Iraq, I can say that they are now establishing a unified leadership of the uprising. This leadership will have two branches: The first will deal with the field or military command and the other will deal with the political leadership. I can assert through information available to me that this leadership will have sections once it is established. The opposition forces, particularly the Iraqi Reconciliation Movement that I represent, will be represented inside Iraq and even inside the Iraqi military establishment. We hope that this will be translated into action within the next few days. The peaceful Iraqi people are confronting tanks and even helicopters with light and simple weapons. We hope that within days, the uprising will, in cooperation with the opposition forces and their representatives inside Iraq, be able to turn from an uprising into a revolution that can actually topple the regime.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman on Delegation's Talks With Baker

LD1303203291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has announced that the organization highly values the performance of the Palestinian nationalist personalities who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday afternoon in occupied Jerusalem.

The spokesman said that the nationalist personalities had made the U.S. official clearly hear the voice of the Palestinian people, which is committed to its inalienable national rights and its leadership, the PLO.

He added that the position the nationalist personalities conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state stressed the indivisible unity between the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied homeland and the Palestinian people and its leadership. He said that this position destroys any attempt to question the PLO and sidestep or circumvent it.

The spokesman stressed that, by strongly expressing the Palestinian people's determination to achieve their firm national rights of self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the nationalist personalities affirmed our people's supreme national goals.

He also said that the personalities demanded from the U.S. secretary of state that the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning Palestine be respected and

implemented because the use of different standards and the division of international legitimacy are unacceptable.

The spokesman added that our evaluation of the meeting which took place yesterday is very positive because it emphasized the unity of the Palestinian people and its leadership and stressed the commitment to the firm Palestinian national rights.

The spokesman also added that the PLO's decision to agree to this meeting took place following the meeting which comprised the general secretaries of the groups of the Palestinian revolution, in addition to the members of the Executive Committee.

Memorandum Delivered

LD1303202891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Palestinian delegation in the occupied territories yesterday delivered a memorandum in the name of the Palestinians of the intifadah which says that the time has come for solving the Palestinian problem on the basis of the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative.

The memorandum says that our objective remains the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel on the land of Palestine. It affirms that the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] is our sole legitimate representative which embodies our Palestinian identity and expresses the Palestinians' will in every part of the world.

A member of the Palestinian delegation, Hanan 'Ashrawi, said that the meeting with Baker was constructive. Baker informed us that the dialogue with the PLO is temporarily frozen and that Baker will tell us what he wants of us so that the dialogue can resume. 'Ashwari also said that the negative part of the meeting was Baker's attempt to convince us to sidestep the PLO and, in this respect, he pointed to the difficulties some Arab countries are finding in talking to the organization.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Faysal al-Husayni, said that the meeting with the U.S. secretary permitted a broad exchange of views and registered some progress. He added that the Americans are determined this time to do something for the peace process, to give it impetus and to make it advance. Al-Husayni said that Baker stressed the Arab leaders' determination to make progress and this is especially the case with the leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the Israeli leaders. Al-Husayni pointed out that we do not only want to get rid of Israeli occupation, but to solve all of the Palestinians' problems.

'Arafat on UN Resolutions

LD1303184891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] AFP reported today that the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has announced his agreement to a meeting between himself or any member of the PLO Executive Committee, and James Baker, if Baker desires this. He expressed his readiness to resume the dialogue with the United States. He also explained that Palestinian personalities will ask Baker to implement international legitimacy and the United Nations resolutions on Palestine, as applied in the Gulf. He added: We do not demand the dispatch of a fleet, or General Schwarzkopf, but we at least want the Israelis to accept the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy.

The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar confirmed that President Saddam Husayn backs us; he is more just, and he is the one who linked oil and the Palestinian problem, and oil and the Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine.

Further on Abu Sharif Remarks on Concessions

Interviewed on 'Different Ideas'

AB1303194891 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 13 Mar 91

[From the "24 Hours" Program]

[Text] We go straight to the PLO's new plans for peace in the Middle East, which is due to be launched here in London tomorrow. Bassam Abu Sharif, a chief political adviser to the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, has just flown to London from Tunis, where he gave an interview to Sky Television. In it he suggested that the PLO might be willing to make important concessions which would entice Israel to the negotiating table. A short while ago, I telephoned Mr. Abu Sharif and asked him what were the PLO's new proposals.

[Begin recording] [Abu Sharif] The PLO has new ideas, different ideas, that will make the peace process easier. These points will be supplied tomorrow here in London. They aim at making it more difficult, probably, for the Israeli Government to refuse complying with United Nations resolutions. We consider that what President Bush had declared from the conference a positive platform that needs implementation—rapid implementation of United Nations resolutions. It is the only way to help reducing the tension in the region. Otherwise, the crisis would continue in the region. This is our assistance and participation in bringing a better atmosphere for establishing lasting peace in the region.

[Hoggart] Now, in the television interview you did, Sky said that the PLO would drop its demand to be treated as an equal partner in negotiations with the Israelis. Is that one part of the package of concessions?

[Abu Sharif] No, I did not talk about that. The PLO is an essential party and I said really that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people. But I talked about at a later stage, when the occupation is over, the Palestinians can freely choose their own representatives in a very democratic way and observed internationally.

[Hoggart] So are you still insisting that the PLO must be treated as an equal partner in negotiations?

[Abu Sharif] The PLO is an essential party to the conflict, actually the conflict is an Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestine is occupied by Israelis; there are around 2 million Palestinians under occupation, and therefore, Palestinians are not going to negotiate with ghosts, they want to negotiate with their enemy, which I hope will be done in order to turn them into neighbors and probably friends at a later stage.

[Hoggart] And is it true that you would accept something less than the complete West Bank and Gaza Strip for a Palestinian state?

[Abu Sharif] The 1967 occupied territories are the territories from which Israel should withdraw. But we will talk and negotiate about borders, it is quite realistic to say that this is negotiable for one simple reason—we need a corridor between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This should be negotiated with the Israeli Government.

[Hoggart] And the status of Jerusalem?

[Abu Sharif] That will also be discussed and negotiated. There are a lot of parties who have interest and concern in Jerusalem. Not only the Palestinians or the Israelis, but many others; hundreds of millions of Muslims and hundreds of millions of Christians, the Vatican, the international community, they have interest in having this holy city a city of peace.

[Hoggart] And would a new Palestinian state automatically be headed by Yasir 'Arafat?

[Abu Sharif] We are very proud of our democracy. President 'Arafat was elected democratically by the parliament, and everybody will be very proud to run for elections and whoever is chosen by the Palestinian people will be president. [end recording]

Remarks Disowned

LD1303192391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] A Palestinian official spokesman has stated the following: Bassam Abu Sharif's statements, which were made yesterday in Rome and to Sky News television, represent no one but himself.

'Arafat Sends Message to Mitterrand

LD1303193191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand on the crisis and war in the Gulf and, mainly, the forthcoming phase which will see efforts by various states, especially France, with the aim of finding a political solution to the Middle East problems and their core, the Palestinian issue.

This message is within the continuing and effective consultations and contacts between the Palestinian and the French leadership.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process, Relations

PM1303142691 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 12 Mar 91 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Fabio Scuto in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Tunis—Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar] arrived in the middle of the night, as usual. He had just attended a difficult meeting of the PLO Executive Committee at which the organization's leadership approved today's meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the representatives of the occupied territories. However, Abu-'Ammar forcefully reaffirmed the centrality of the PLO and of his leadership of the organization, implying that he would even be willing to meet with the U.S. secretary of state himself. This president of a "landless state," away from the photographers' flashbulbs and camera lights, smiles little and responds harshly when it is put to him that his organization is experiencing a crisis of political representation following the Gulf war.

[Scuto] Mr. President, does this meeting in Jerusalem open up a new stage for the peace process in Palestine?

['Arafat] We have always accepted dialogue. In the past with the United States here in Tunis, then the Egyptian initiative, and then also that of James Baker. But Israel has always rejected them. We have met and have also discussed the meeting between Baker and the Palestinian representatives of the occupied territories and issued a positive response to this meeting in Jerusalem.

[Scuto] Does this decision mean that there will be changes in the Palestinian leadership? Faysal al-Husayni argues that there must be changes in the organization's leadership. Do you see this as a threat to your leadership, or is it a sign of the changing times?

['Arafat] I do not believe that Faysal al-Husayni meant to say exactly that, but whenever our Executive Committee has met there have been changes among our leaders. There are no secrets; we must be judged by our parliament.

[Scuto] But would you agree to involvement in peace negotiations of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories and to their dealing with Israel?

['Arafat] Why are the Palestinian people regarded as just those in the occupied territories? There are only 2 million Palestinians in the occupied territories, but there are over 6 million of us.

[Scuto] Would you agree to become a mere engineer again if that could help the Palestinians to obtain a state?

[Arafat] The Palestinian people must decide this. To my ears, this sounds like an interference in our internal affairs. Do you in Italy allow foreigners to request changes in your leadership to improve relations?

[Scuto] Mr. President, how do you see this postwar period?

[Arafat] This conflict has been destructive: It has had negative effects on the Arab nation, on the Muslims, on the Third World countries. The wounds inflicted on our world, on Europe, and on the United States will remain for generations. No Arab will forget the picture shown by all television stations of Arab troops forced to kiss American officers' boots. How did they permit themselves to show those pictures, which are a violation of the Geneva Conventions? It is inhuman.

[Scuto] Because of your position on the Gulf war, there has been a cooling of relations with many European countries and the world that used to support you....

[Arafat] Whoever started the war made a mistake. Everyone has lost in this conflict. You can win a war militarily but lose it politically. Britain, France, and Israel won the war against al-Nasir in 1956 but then lost it politically. Now the war in the Gulf is finished militarily but not yet politically.

[Scuto] Some EEC foreign ministers have said that they have nothing against the PLO, but that they are against certain stances adopted by the organization. Do you believe that this situation must be clarified?

[Arafat] Definitely. But I, too, have some observations to make about the EEC's position. But if we are to sit down at a negotiating table it will certainly not be up to me to decide who to talk with. However, for the entire Arab world, the Islamic world, and the Third World, the PLO remains the Palestinian people's sole representative. Pictures of me have been paraded in the streets from Indonesia to Morocco.

[Scuto] It all stems from the Gulf crisis. Saddam rejected all mediation, from Primakov to the previous offer from Perez de Cuellar.

[Arafat] That's not true. At the Soviet Government's request, I attended Primakov's three meetings in Baghdad. On his last trip Gorbachev's envoy forced Saddam to talk about a withdrawal, and I was present on that occasion, too.

[Scuto] You believed until the end that Saddam would withdraw....

[Arafat] Yes, definitely; he drew the map of Kuwait for Perez de Cuellar, by which he meant that he no longer considered it part of Iraq. This should have been understood, and before the start of the land offensive Saddam accepted the Soviet initiative. I am the oldest mediator between Iraq and Kuwait. In 1972, when the military clash took place, it was I who ended it. At that time the Iraqi chief of state was Hasan al-Bakr. I managed to get the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers to sit down at the same table. It was I who suggested to the Kuwaitis that they lease Bubiyan Island during the Iraq-Iran war. Baghdad needed it because Shatt al-'Arab was not navigable and they had no ports that could be used. I know the tiniest details about this situation; I am one of the engineers who planned the superhighway from al-Basrah to Kuwait.

[Scuto] Mr. President, a great deal has been written about some of your statements about Iraq's use of chemical weapons. What truth is there in all this?

[Arafat] I said that if the coalition had used nonconventional weapons, there would have been a danger that Iraq in turn could have used them—and I heard the Iraqis say so. I said nothing more than that.

[Scuto] Where do you believe the start of the road to peace lies? With a peace conference, a framework agreement for a "Helsinki-type" conference as proposed by [Italian Foreign Minister Gianni] de Michelis, direct talks with Israel....

[Arafat] We have our own peace initiative, announced in Geneva in 1988 on the Palestinian people's behalf. I was elected president partly on the basis of this political program which is based on UN resolutions. My question is this: Will there be the same commitment on the part of the international community and the United States to ensuring observance of international law as they showed in the Gulf. Israel occupies Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian territories. I wonder what Europe will do to make Israel observe the UN Security Council resolutions and end the occupation of the Palestinian territories. I am sure that they will definitely not send in aircraft carriers or half-a-million men to force Shamir to observe international law, as they did with Saddam. At least let them exert political and economic pressures.

[Scuto] Many people have asked the Vatican to recognize the State of Israel. What do you think? And what is the present status of your relations with the Vatican?

[Arafat] We will never forget the principled stances that the Pope has always adopted regarding the Palestinian people at all difficult times, always demanding observance of the UN resolutions in our regard. Despite all the pressures put on the Vatican to establish ties with Israel, the Pope's wise response has been that he wants diplomatic relations with both states—Israel and Palestine. During this crisis, too, the Pope has combated war and advocated peace.

[Scuto] How do you judge the status of your current relations with Italy?

[Arafat] Relations are good, even though the media has tried to misinform people about our position. Of course there can be disagreements on certain issues, but we will

never forget the Italian Government's and people's support for our cause. Throughout the crisis I maintained constant contact with the Italian Government and the Vatican. I also received a letter from [Italian Primer Minister Giulio] Andreotti 10 hours before war broke out, stating his willingness to go to Baghdad if Saddam were willing to withdraw from Kuwait. I conveyed the message, but war had already broken out.

[Scuto] Mr. President, you are a well-protected man; you have suffered attacks; and there are dozens of armed men outside to protect you. When at night you take off your kefiyah; remove your holster; at last lay down your Colt, which you are never separated from; and fall asleep, what kind of Palestine do you dream about?

['Arafat] I dream about the Palestinian flag that flutters atop the minarets of Jerusalem. Peace starts in Palestine; there will be no peace in the world until there is peace in the Holy Land.

Former PNC Speaker Demands New Leadership

NC1403021191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has demanded the formation of a new Palestine National Council to elect a new Palestinian leadership in the wake of Yasir 'Arafat's siding with Saddam Husayn.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, al-Fahum said he was making this demand in view of the contacts he has held, including a meeting with a number of Arab foreign ministers as the head of a delegation of some of the Damascus-based Palestinian factions. Al-Fahum stressed, however, that the PLO remains the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and must take part in all negotiations that seek to find a solution to the issue. Al-Fahum pointed out the damage 'Arafat's bias did to the intifadah in the occupied territories. He said all Palestinians have (?expressed) displeasure and bitterness over 'Arafat's siding with Saddam Husayn, something which did great harm to the Palestinian issue.

He noted that the PNC is illegitimate as its four-year term was to have expired in 1984 but it has remained for 10 years. He pointed out that the new council could be formed in one of the following two ways:

1. Elections could be held in places where Palestinians are concentrated and under UN supervision in the occupied territories in view of the difficulties of holding elections under occupation.

2. If elections cannot be held for whatever reason, the method that has been used since the PLO was established in 1964 to form the council could be applied again or a preparatory committee consisting of the leaders of all factions of the resistance movement as well as popular unions and national figures who are not included in these factions could be formed, provided that at least half its members come from the occupied territories and that no one organization dominates the others.

Asked whether the formation of a new PNC would hinder progress toward a settlement of the Palestine question, Khalid al-Fahum said that if there were serious efforts to resolve the Palestine question and to allow the Palestinians to be represented in all negotiations, then a new PNC could be formed in four to six weeks. He pointed out that the PNC used to be formed in this way within a week or 10 days. He added that the new Palestinian leadership can be elected in four to six weeks. He said that if this is done, the PLO will restore its good relations with all the Arab states and regain the credibility it enjoyed in all countries of the world before Yasir 'Arafat sided with Saddam Husayn, a move which harmed the PLO's relations with the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Egypt, and Syria.

Al-Fahum said that during a recent meeting in Damascus, he discussed with the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait in particular and in the Gulf states in general with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Jabir. He said that the two ministers stressed that the Palestinians in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar will be treated exactly the same as citizens of these states, with the exception of certain Palestinians who entered Kuwait with Saddam Husayn's forces. These Palestinians represent a Palestinian organization that is ideologically affiliated with the Iraqi regime and must therefore leave Kuwait, where they had never lived. Al-Fahum added that the two ministers stressed the view of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration that the Palestine question is still the Arabs' central cause.

Algeria

Hamrouche Chairs Government Session 10 Mar

LD1103145691 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 11/3/91 (APS)—The Council of Government, which met Sunday [10 March] here under the chairmanship of Mouloud Hamrouche, examined conditions of implementation of the 1991 National Plan, the 1991 Finance Bill, the budget and the economic and social evolution for 1991. All the forecasts of the year have been updated in light of the changes in the international context during the first semester of 1991 and their effect on the national economy.

In this frame, the Council of Government considers that the economic and social objectives traced at the beginning of the year are maintained in spite of the negative evolution of oil prices. These objectives concern mainly salary increase, subvention to basic food products, subvention to agricultural production, development of youth employment and the subvention to housing programs. Similarly, the program of financial healthening [as received] and improvement of the public productive sector in the field of agriculture, industry and services set up at the beginning of the year will be maintained and reinforced. In this context, the results of some operations have already been published and others will be published in the forthcoming weeks.

Another development, the Council of Government made sure that the program aimed at providing equipments to youth be implemented. It also decided to enlarge this program to include university graduates. Moreover, the Council examined the liberation of the access to external and wholesale trade—it insisted that the services of commercial organization and banks provide rapidly the instruments of the exercise of this profession.

The Council of Government, which is aware of this crucial step for the future of the nation to assure a sufficient protection of the categories with low incomes, maintains the objectives of corrections of salaries, support of prices and monitoring of first necessity goods, the improvement and enlargement of the social protection of unemployment, workers and retired persons and provides enormous resources to protect employment and the national production tools. In addition, the Council of Government examined the situation in the sectors of vocational training and education. In this context, it put the stress on the necessity to improve the quality of the educational system and to provide all the necessary means to carry out this mission in the best conditions.

General Strike Begins; High Response Noted

First Day Detailed

LD1203142591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The general strike called for by the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] began today. To evaluate the extent of the response to the call, Mohsin Slimane contacted the UGTA National Secretary Mokhtar Obaid, who stated the following: In the early hours of the strike, we recorded about 90 percent observation of the strike throughout the homeland and the various sectors. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Slimane] We would like to know if there were any incidents during the strike.

[Mokhtar] There were no incidents at all. One positive aspect we can stress is that a minimum degree of service is being guaranteed in the vital services sector, in accordance with the law. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Algerian broadcasting has risen to its national reporting duties. It has reported part of the climate prevailing over the strike through Nassira Manoun, who is now with us in the studio, and who will report to us about what she has seen through her tour of the various establishments in Algiers.

[Manoun] Well, sister Fatima Zahra Arous, as a result of the tours we have made to the various establishments in the heart of the capital, we have noted that the strike was comprehensive except for the minimum level in the vital public services, in line with the instructions issued by the National Secretariat of the UGTA. [passage omitted]

Afterward, we went to the UGTA headquarters were we contacted its National Secretariat and learned that some sectors that are not UGTA members have also responded to the strike call. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The secretary general of the Public Servants Trade Union has spoken to Massaoud Salem about the position of this independent trade union toward the UGTA's call for a general strike. He said:

[Begin recording] [Public Servants Union secretary] The measure taken by the UGTA concerns its trade unions. Since the establishment of our trade union in February 1990, we have taken several initiatives and measures to acquaint the central authorities with the conditions of the workers in general and the public service employees in particular. We have taken, in fact, many such measures including making contacts with the government and the proclamation of a strike in September 1990 lasting 10 days. Unfortunately, we had no response from the central authorities. We also delared a 19-day strike in December 1990. Thus our trade union has taken a number of effective measures to alert the authorities to the deteriorating conditions of the employees in particular and the workers in general.

[Salem] The workers and employees of the Public Servants Union seem to have boycotted the strike and are now working? What would you say to public service workers and employees on this occasion?

[Public Servants Union secretary] We continued to perform our duties today, because our trade union was not consulted. True, we did not participate in today's strike, but we organized strikes and issued statements in the

past. [passage omitted] We are prepared to meet with representatives of other trade unions and study the matter and perhaps join in rigorous measures beneficial to all. [end recording]

[Announcer] The UGTA trade union branch in the National Broadcasting Establishment has for its part called on the establishment's workers to go on strike. Lakhdar Sayeh, the branch's secretary has stated the following to us: We in the trade union of the National Broadcasting Establishment have decided in our capacity as members of the UGTA to support the strike out of complete conviction. But because of the special character of our establishment as a broadcasting establishment and its close link with its honorable listeners and in view of its national duty, it was imperative for us as media workers to continue to serve our honorable listeners so that we would not leave the arena free to be exploited by foreign radios for sneaking their views which might not serve the true objectives of the strike.

I must say, however, that the strike was observed inside our establishment by the administrative and indirect production services. [passage omitted]

Second Day Detailed

LD1303144991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The general strike called for by the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] to protest the high cost of living today enters its second and last day. In the second day, most enterprises, production units, public services, and administrations have continued their strike action. The UGTA yesterday evening estimated the rate of success of the strike at over 90 percent. We have this report on the second day of the strike in the eastern part of the country from Constantine:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] The general strike called for by UGTA continued for the second day protesting the high cost of living and exorbitant prices, which are beyond the means of the workers' very limited income. We thought it was our duty to know the opinion of one of UGTA's representatives in Constantine on the response to the call for a strike. Mr. Boudjemaa Rahma, the official spokesman for the strike cell, gave us the following account of the situation:

[Rahma] Let me tell you that on this second day things are proceeding calmly and the strike is continuing. What we have noticed is that some of the workers who did not join the strike yesterday joined their fellow workers today. This was caused to a certain extent by their loss of trust after the release of some communiques which distorted the nature of the strike. After the workers became aware of the reality of the strike and its objectives, they joined their fellow workers. We notice that some enterprises, which yesterday had a response of 60 and 70 percent, today are 100 percent on strike.

The important thing is that the excesses we feared at first did not—thank God—materialize, and all the workers are today at their work stations despite some minor clashes between the workers....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Do you mean, Mr. Rahma, that they remained calm?

[Rahma] Yes, they remained totally calm, and all the Algerian workers should be proud of this. [end recording]

We have another report on the same subject from Oran, in the West:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] The provinces in the West are entering their second day of the general strike. There were new developments this morning, with an increasing response rate on one hand, but on the other hand, according to our correspondents, Naama is the only provice with a drop in the rate of participation in this operation—since this rate was only 50 percent in the primary and intermediate education sector and just about 40 percent in the secondary and technical sector. The health sector reported a rate of about 50 percent. The other sectors all come under the rate of 96.71 percent recorded this morning.

The Province of Oran, which is the capital of western Algeria, also had its own characteristics, which Mr. Bouskaou Abdelmalik, UGTA official in charge of collective agreements in Oran, has summed up for us as follows:

[Abdelmalik] The strike is continuing today. The rate of participation in the Province of Oran this morning stood at 96.71 percent.

[Correspondent] Are there any obstacles or any unexpected events?

[Abdelmalik] We had only one problem this morning regarding to the conduct of the strike at NAFTAL, for the distribution of gas. We have agreed with the brothers there that a minimum distribution service in Oran should be guaranteed in order to avoid the anarchy we had yesterday. The directives at the level of the national trade unions were not clear. This morning we agreed with the brothers on a correct implementation [of the directives] in this field. Moreover, yesterday afternoon and this morning some enterprises which did not join the strike [from the start] decided to join the action due to the level of mobilization. There was for example the ENAP, enterprise for paints, and the enterprise of pipelines. [end recording]

Results of Strike Assessed

LD1303205691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpts] On the second and last day of the general strike which was called by the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] to protest the high cost of living, the

trade union leadership gave a news conference at which it assessed the results of the strike. The UGTA secretary general affirmed in a statement the success of the strike and saluted all men and women workers for their response to the call. [passage omitted]

During the [press] conference, UGTA Secretary General Abdelhak Benhamouda replied to the journalists' questions on the results of the strike.

Benhamouda said that the percentage of workers on strike on the first day reached over 90 percent and around 94.10 percent on the second day at national level. Replying to a question on whether there was an agreement, promises, or a specific respite between the government and the UGTA, Abdelhak Benhamouda said:

[Begin recording] [Benhamouda] In reality we had a two-day strike, Tuesday and Wednesday. Our contacts are with the workers at their work places. Therefore, we had no contacts [with the government] during the two days. However, from Saturday [16 March], we shall begin negotiations and talks. Naturally, we have not severed contacts. If there is to be a response, it will not be to us, not to the union, and not to the UGTA general secretariat, but to the workers. Naturally, the response will be assessed by the workers. This means that the workers will make an appraisal of the response and see whether their aspirations are met or whether the response is against them. The only thing I can confirm today through our contacts is that the workers are saying: We do not demand anything that is beyond the country's ability. We only want what is within the ability of the country on the basis of our circumstances, as long as it is not unjust. We will not pay the bill alone. Even if there is a need for sacrifice, all Algerians will sacrifice. [words indistinct] the majority offer sacrifices and a minority benefits. [end recording]

TV Broadcasts 24-Hour Telethon To Support Iraq

LD1403104591 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Algiers, 14 Mar (APS)—The Algerian National Television Service mobilized all manpower and material and technical means to launch a nonstop, 24-hour broadcast telethon to express actual solidarity with the Iraqi people. The telethon began at 2000 hours yesterday. [passage omitted]

All regional television stations are participating in this broadcast and will cover all programmed activity throughout the country in coordination with the official station, on Martyrs Street, which includes the central management. [passage omitted]

Firms To Help in Reconstruction of Iraq

LD1203132291 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 12/3/91 (APS)—The contribution of Algerian entreprises to the reconstruction of Iraq was the theme of a meeting organized on Monday in Algiers by the National Union of Scientists and Technologists (UNST). National economic operators as well as the press attache of the Iraq embassy attended this meeting which objective is to enable the present entreprises (120 entreprises among which 57 are of the public sector and 25 of the private sector) to consult each other in order to define the adequate frame and ways and means enabling the Algerian operators to intervene and participate to the reconstruction of Iraq.

National Liberation Front on Solidarity With Iraq

LD0703124491 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Algiers, 7 Mar (APS)—The weekly AL-MUJAHID, the official FLN [National Liberation Front] newspaper, talked about the situation in the Gulf after the cease-fire between fraternal Iraq and the United States and its followers.

The newspaper pointed out that in the past we fought colonialism, but now we are asking for colonialists and urging them to colonize us and to take payment for that in cash and in kind. "Let those who participated in the aggression and made their land a stepping stone for it be sure that that aggression was not the first and will not be the last, and that those who are freely shedding Iraqi blood today will freely shed the blood of all Arabs tomorrow."

The newspaper stressed that the Iraqi people have provided lessons that tell us that we should now forge a pan-Arab policy to fulfill the interests and potential of the nation. This will include a comprehensive reply to the evil and dangerous U.S. policy. There is no scope now for different Arab [word indistinct] or distant Arab positions. [passage omitted]

AL-MUJAHID concluded its editorial, entitled "The Law of Force," by pointing out that what is now required is to show solidarity with Iraq and to extend our hands to raise the flag, together with Iraq, then the branches of resistance, which have paled in Baghdad, will renew themselves and will never die.

Egypt

Diplomatic Relations With Iran To Resume 26 Mar

NC1403063791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The Egyptian and Iranian Governments have agreed to resume diplomatic relations between the two countries on 26 March after 12 years of interruption at the level of offices in charge of interests.

AL-AHRAM reports today that it was agreed that Switzerland will look after the Iranian interests in Cairo while Italy will look after the Egyptian interests in Tehran.

The paper explains that the Iranian mission will arrive in Cairo on 25 March and will resume its activities at the old Iranian Embassy on Al-'Urubah Street in Cairo. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Request To Visit for Talks Rejected

NC1403081091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 14 Mar (WAKH)—Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo have affirmed that Egypt has refused to receive Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to hold political talks and meet with senior officials in Egypt.

The sources today [as received] told AL-KHALIJ, published in al-Shariqah, that a Palestinian official in Cairo informed the officials in Egypt of 'Arafat's desire to visit Cairo but that 'Arafat's request was rejected. The Palestinian official was told that the time is not appropriate [for such a visit] and that the political leadership in Egypt cannot disregard the feelings of resentment toward 'Arafat's stand on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid Asks PLO for 'Explicit' Stand

NC1403081791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called on the PLO to adopt a more explicit and firm stand on the recent statements by Yasir 'Arafat's press adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, on a dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel.

In press statements he and Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek made following President Mubarak's meeting with the latter yesterday evening, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Bassam Abu Sharif's statements, as broadcast by the media, show a conflict with the PLO's stand and have not been approved by the organization.

On dialogue and Palestinian representation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that Egypt believes in the need for Palestinian participation in the peace talks. He said that this has always been Egypt's position. He said he hopes to see Palestinians and Israelis begin a dialogue.

Asked about his country's assessment of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting the day before yesterday with several Palestinians in the occupied territories, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the meeting was positive and encouraging.

For his part, the Netherlands foreign minister described relations between Egypt and the Netherlands as excellent. He praised Egypt's role in the Gulf crisis and said that Egypt played a vanguard role in the Gulf crisis and the Netherlands greatly admired it.

Hans van der Broek confirmed that the EC wants peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to other hotbeds of tension in the region. He referred in this respect to the recent meeting of the EC troika delegation with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as well as to its talks in Israel and the Arab Maghreb countries in an attempt to bring views together with respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestinian Official Praises Mubarak Stand

NC1303191091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Fatah Movement representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has lauded President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's statement concerning his country's position on the PLO and the issue of the Palestinian people. Al-Qidrah described President Mubarak as a man of firm stands and principles.

In a statement today, he said no section of the Palestinian people both inside and outside forgets Egypt's support for the Palestinian people, or the Egyptian people's struggle and continuous sacrifices for the sake of the cause of Palestine and the causes of the Arab nation.

He asserted that the Palestinian initiative declared in 1988 still stands and that the Palestinian people are still clinging to their national rights, foremost of which are their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

Bahrain

Diplomatic Relations Established With Romania

NC1003111291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 10 Mar (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and the Republic of Romania have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of 10 March.

A joint statement issued here today by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry says that the establishment of these relations is the result of the two countries' desire to promote and bolster bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

In their statement, the two sides expressed their belief that this decision will contribute to the promotion of international cooperation in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and on the basis of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Kuwait

'Arafat's 'Impudent Accusations' Denounced

PM1103102191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "What Does Yasir 'Arafat Want From Us?"]

[Text] "The PLO leadership has been alarmed after thorough investigation and inquiry by the scale of the tragedies to which the Palestinian community has been exposed at the hands of Kuwaiti officials... and there are rabid, suspect, and spiteful campaigns launched by the media against the Palestinians."

These are extracts from the statement issued by the PLO last 17 September, that is, during those black days we went through and 45 days after the Iraqi invasion and the Iraqi campaigns of murder, plunder, and looting on our territory. This is in addition to the eviction of most of our people from their land and homes, scattering them in world capitals and imposing an order of repression, suppression, and rape against those who remained in their homes.

The PLO leadership—which supported the aggression, colluded with the occupier, and fabricated justifications for the invasion and the eviction of a people from their territory and the usurpation of their right to self-determination—accused "Kuwaiti officials" and the Kuwaiti people, who were under occupation and ruled by Saddam Husayn's clique and denied freedom of movement, of attacking the Palestinians. Does it seem strange for Yasir 'Arafat to come back, only two days after the liberation of Kuwait, to launch his impudent accusations against our people and legitimacy and seek the world states' protection of the Palestinians in Kuwait?

We had hoped to keep silent about Yasir 'Arafat and let the Palestinian people judge him, just as the Iraqi people are doing today with Saddam. But when he says in the statement calling for the Palestinians' protection that the Palestinians numbered 440,000 before the Iraqi invasion and that number has become 170,000 after the invasion, we Kuwaitis with our legitimacy are entitled to confront him with the truth and tell him that half a million Palestinians lived with us in Kuwait in security and peace, working, residing, reproducing, donating to the PLO, sending their surplus to their families, and saving what they could for the future. We must tell him that 270,000 of these were victims of the invasion and eviction—the invasion which Yasir 'Arafat himself supported. He granted his organization's support and called for its acceptance and recognition on the grounds that it was the shortest road to the liberation of Palestine.

Today Yasir 'Arafat demands that the world protect the Palestinians from the Kuwaitis and finds it too much for the Kuwaiti people and the men of legitimacy in Kuwait "to relentlessly pursue the sinful elements, from whatever community," as mentioned in the statement of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and stated by Kuwaiti officials: We are seeking collaborators and criminals. We are not seeking certain nationalities, because we are above all that.

'Arafat's suspect call is no surprise at all. Because its aims, as usual, go beyond the words of the statement. Just as the legitimate government replied to 'Arafat's statement in September, in those black days, it replies today through Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and after the truth has emerged to announce its natural right to "preserve security inside Kuwait, after the evil Iraqi occupier has destroyed all the state's constituents and created a gang of conspirators and collaborators to realize his objectives." What we said in our reply to his abominable statement in September we repeat today; namely, that "the PLO leadership certainly feels isolated from its people and to overcome that isolation it believes nothing is better than inciting that people not against their enemies but against the Kuwaitis, who supported and continue to support the Palestinian people's cause and who embraced and continue to embrace all honorable people from among our Arab brothers, regardless of their nationalities. By this the PLO wants to sow sedition three times: Once when it supported the butcher of Baghdad in occupying an Arab territory and making an Arab people homeless; once when it incited the Arab Palestinians against the Arab Kuwaitis; and once when it mistook the front and wrongly thought that the liberation of Kuwait begins with the invasion and ruin of Kuwait."

We are Arabs. Kuwaiti legitimacy and people are Arab. We are conscious of the Arabs' feelings and pained by their pains, and no matter what Yasir 'Arafat says, he

cannot strip us of our Arabism and our right to protect our country. It is a right we will never relinquish. With the restoration of freedom and legitimacy to Kuwait, there is no concern about the Palestinians or the honorable people residing in Kuwait. Saddam's defeat will not be confined to him alone, and between isolation and "removal" there is only one step—a step which the Palestinian people have taken.

Saudi Arabia

Dutch Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Riyadh

LD1203120191 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has held talks in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The talks focused on bilateral relations in the post-war Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

Mr. van den Broek also discussed the sale of Fokker aircraft to Saudi Arabia and more landing rights for KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline. The foreign minister is on a tour of the Middle Eastern nations to discuss the various problems facing the region. Mr. van den Broek will also visit Kuwait and Egypt, where he will hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The foreign minister's tour of the Middle East is seen as preparation for Holland's upcoming chairmanship of the European Community, which starts on 1 July.

Prince Sa'ud Urges Israeli Move

LD1203190691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, stressed that there is a growing interest among the international community to arrive at a solution to the Palestinian question which is considered at this moment the most important issue of the region. He hopes that the international community's interest will meet with a positive response from the Israeli enemy.

In a statement to Dutch newsmen and SPA made after his meeting today with the foreign minister of the Netherlands, the foreign minister said that this talks with the Dutch minister were good and fruitful.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that their views on establishing peace in the Middle East reigon and restoring stability and calm to this region of the world were identical. He emphasized that the liberation of the State of Kuwait and the restoration of its legality has placed us in an extremely good position to look into solutions to the other problems in the region.

Asks Kingdom To Influence Israel

LD1403022791 Hilversum International Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Saudi Arabia has asked the Netherlands to use its influence in Israel on behalf of furthering a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud emphasized in his meeting with Holland's visiting Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek that resolving the Palestinian issue is vital to restoring overall security in the Middle East.

Mr van den Broek declared himself entirely in agreement with the Saudi position. On the basis of his recent findings in Riyadh and other Arab capitals the minister concluded that the Arab world is adopting a more flexible stance toward Israel.

While in Saudi Arabia the Netherlands foreign minister will have been meeting with the amir of Kuwait to discuss the contribution Dutch companies can make to rebuilding the devasted emirate. He will then fly on to Egypt.

Talks Called 'Useful'

LD1303232891 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 13, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal noted the great concern the world community is paying to the solution of the Palestinian issue which is considered the most pressing issue at present.

In a statement to SPA and a group of Dutch pressmen, Prince Sa'ud hoped this concern will get a positive response from the Israeli enemy.

Regarding his talks with the Dutch Foreign Minister in Riyadh yesterday, Prince Sa'ud said the talks were useful and good. Prince Sa'ud said their viewpoints on peace and stability in the Middle East have been identical.

Prince Sa'ud said the liberation of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy has put us in a good position for looking for solutions to the region's other issues.

Interior Minister's News Conference on Pilgrimage

LD1303211191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of the interior, affirmed that recent events in the Arabian Gulf area can be termed historic. His highness praised the courageous and wise decision of the custodian of the two holy mosques to defend the Kingdom and liberate the State of Kuwait.

Answering newsmen after attending the graduation of cadets from the King Fahd security college, Prince Nayif said that the Kingdom has taken all necessary measures to welcome pilgrims from all parts of the world as is customary every year. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Nayif] There are matters, however, that we must realize and be aware of. First, one must rely on God and on his guidance to succeed. Victory is granted by God. Second, the decision that history will record was the courageous and wise decision of the custodian of the two holy mosques to confront this matter and his resolve to liberate Kuwait and defend the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] What does Your Highness say to anyone who allows himself to be seduced into harming this dear homeland?

[Nayif] I would tell such a person to think hard before embarking on violating the security of this homeland, because we do not in any way show leniency, and we shall not allow in any form, any person, any individual, to tinker with the security of the homeland, harm its interests or any part of its capabilities.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, since the start of the Gulf crisis, it has been noticed that drug crimes in the Kingdom have disappeared. Do you interpret this as a result of the cohesion of the internal front or the solidity of the home front?

[Nayif] The truth is that all crime rates have declined. First, this is a result of awareness among the members of the security forces and the citizens. Second, it is the result of security efforts exerted during this period at all levels. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Sir, regarding the march of the joint Arab security and the rupture it suffered during this crisis, is there an intention to repair this rupture in the near future?

[Nayif] It is my hope in God and then in the Arab nation that the Arab nation will benefit from the lessons which it has experienced and that we will always be practical, objective, and discuss our interests logically and rationally. I hope we will march in life, first, as Almighty God and His Prophet—prayers and peace be upon him—taught us and then, as the world, leaders and officials deal with their problems, keep away from sentimentality and discuss our affairs in clear objectivity.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, on the occasion of the approaching pilgrimage season, what are the Ministry of Interior's preparations?

[Nayif] They are the same preparations as always. We are ready to welcome Muslims from all over the world.

[Correspondent] May God prolong your life, the officials of some states are striving to prevent their pilgrims from performing this year's pilgrimage. Will there be a need to make the facts clear, especially as what is being claimed in this respect is untrue?

[Nayif] The subject is really different. We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcome all Muslims. As for those who want to prevent pilgrims from going to God's house, they disobey God's orders and must take the responsibility for this. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Highness, if pilgrims from some of the concerned states are allowed in, do you believe they will attempt to tinker with security?

[Nayif] In fact, we should not exclude the possibility that there are those who want to harm the security of God's house and the pilgrims, but we hope that this will not happen. We are prepared for everything and will not allow any tinkering by anyone and in any form.

[Correspondent] May God prolong your life, is there any intention to continue with the volunteer plan after its success during this crisis?

[Nayif] Indeed, there is a place for volunteers in any case. If the homeland needs its youth, its youth is always ready. Events have proved that youth competes to carry out its duty in every field.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, in light of the regrettable events seen in the Gulf region, is there a new security strategy among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

[Nayif] Indeed, there is nothing new; there are things which exist. There is an existing strategy which only needs implementation, and we hope, God willing, that the security apparatuses in the Gulf states will deal with their security duties with a view to benefitting from the lessons lived by our region during the unusual circumstance.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, there are those who doubt that there has been a change in the Kingdom's treatment of some subjects of states which supported the Iraqi regime.

[Nayif] Brother, we treat everyone according to his deeds. He who respects the Kingdom and respects its people, regulations, and everything in it, we respect and welcome. He who contradicts this and works against the Kingdom, will certainly have no place in the Kingdom. [end recording]

RCC Issues Pardon for Prisoners 13 Mar

NC1403070091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision to pardon all Iraqi prisoners and people held in custody from the remainder of their sentences and release them. Following is the text of the decision:

Decision Number 86 issued by the RCC on 11 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 13 March 1991.

Proceeding from the stipulations in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First: Iraqi prison inmates and persons held in custody shall be pardoned for the remainder of their sentences and shall be released.

Second: The stipulations of the first paragraph of this decision do not apply to prison inmates and people held in custody sentenced for the following crimes:

1. Spying.
2. Incest.
3. Drugs.
4. Rape.
5. Currency smuggling, forgery, and counterfeiting.

Third: The pardon does not include:

1. Those sentenced to death.
2. Those sentenced to death, but whose sentence has been commuted.
3. Those convicted according to the stipulations of Article 225 of the Penal Code.
4. Those convicted of crimes of conspiring to topple the regime.
5. Those convicted of premeditated murder who have not served half the time they were sentenced to.
6. Those convicted of embezzlement for more than 10 years.
7. Those convicted of crimes committed against the internal or external security of the state.
8. Those convicted of crimes of theft.
9. Recidivists [al-mahkumin al-'a'idun].
10. Convicts who did not volunteer to defend the homeland.

Fourth: Legal measures taken against persons accused of all crimes shall be terminated completely, except:

1. Persons accused of crimes noted in the second paragraph of this decision.
2. Persons accused of crimes whose punishment is death.
3. Persons accused of crimes noted in Article 225 of the Penal Code.
4. Persons accused of crimes of plotting to overthrow the regime.
5. Persons accused of crimes of premeditated murder.
6. Persons accused of crimes of embezzlement.
7. Persons accused of crimes affecting internal or external state security.
8. Persons accused of robbery.

Fifth: This decision shall go into effect on the date of issuance, and the pertinent departments shall assume responsibility for its implementation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC

'Violation' of Mission Buildings in U.S. Cited

NC1303174391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has reported that U.S. security forces committed an aggression last Friday against the Iraqi Embassy building in Washington and the Iraqi ambassador's residence.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said U.S. authorities closed the Iraqi Embassy buildings and the ambassador's residence in Washington after asking the head of the Iraqi Interests Section to leave Washington on Friday, 8 March 1991.

The spokesman added that on the evening of the same day, U.S. security forces forcibly opened the building without the permission of the head of the Iraqi Interests Section and remained inside for a period of time. They entered the building again on the morning of Monday, 11 March.

The spokesman asserted that this measure constitutes a violation of the 1961 Vienna Agreement on diplomatic relations, which provides for the protection of the sanctity of diplomatic missions; states that it is impermissible for employees of the state to which the diplomatic mission is accredited to enter it except with the permission of the head of the mission; and specifies that the residence of a diplomat enjoys the same immunity and protection accorded the mission building.

The spokesman stressed that U.S. authorities perpetrated this flagrant violation of the Vienna Agreement without legal justification at a time when the U.S. diplomatic mission building in Baghdad and the U.S. ambassador's residence were not subjected to any intervention of any kind by the Iraqi authorities since U.S. diplomats left Baghdad on 12 January. He noted that these installations are still protected, continue to enjoy full diplomatic sanctity and are being guarded from the outside by Iraqi security forces.

'Special' Ties Between Leadership, People Cited

NC1303172991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1156 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] An editorial published today in AL-THAWRAH under the headline "This is the Relationship Between the Leadership and the People" says:

The leader of our march, struggler Saddam Husayn, has pursued a special policy in the relationship between the leadership and the people. If signs of this special policy

are clear in the walkabouts of the leader of the homeland and people and his constant and customary inspection of the citizens in the various Iraqi cities, as well as rural and bedouin areas, and his meetings with the citizens, the issuance of this policy [words indistinct] because the 17-30 July revolution was a revolution of the Iraqi people and its leaders came from the ranks of the people. It is a leadership whose revolution was not arranged by the circles of foreign intelligence services. It did not draw its capabilities from foreign money and support. Neither did it call in tanks of foreign aggression to be used against Iraq. Quite the contrary, in its revolutionary action, in guiding the process of change and reconstruction, and in confronting challenges and dangers, our historic leadership relied only on the people, their capabilities, and their historic reserve of generosity. It was a reserve that suffered the burden of the debris of centuries of occupation, backwardness, and oppression. The historic leader Saddam Husayn took care to liberate this reserve from its (?shackles) and debris and remove the dust until it sprang up as a giant in its tenets, structure, and struggle.

Although the years separating the present time from the dawn of the 17-30 July revolution might seem brief when measured against historical time, it represents to the Iraqis all their glory, presence, structure, and their rise to the peaks of honor and dignity as bearers of great historical messages. This period also comprises all the details of their new life in all its significance and in the spheres of services, education, health, agriculture, and all other aspects of progress that have turned Iraq into a fortress, a beacon, and a model to be emulated.

In every instance when the enemies targeted our great Iraq, our historic leadership responded to the enemies with all the people's energies, because the people represent the leadership's affiliation and its inexhaustible reserve, and because they are the source of the strength that no foreign enemy can crush regardless of his technical capabilities.

The special policy pursued by the exceptional leader Saddam Husayn in connection with the relationship between the leadership and the people has become an immortal policy that is merely strengthened and deepened by the challenges. When leaders and officials carry out inspection tours in Iraqi cities, villages, and rural areas, these tours, which are currently taking place, assume their positive dimensions and forms [words indistinct] and its [word indistinct] interaction with its sons and its field activity to view their conditions and needs following the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq. These tours seek to revive enthusiasm and to confront difficulties and challenges.

Our mujahidin people realize that the secret of their steadfastness and ability lies in their unity and the solidity of their convictions that have been formed in the crucible of direct experience with their historic leadership. For this reason, these people are currently emphasizing their adherence to their principles and leadership. At the same time they are stressing the steadfastness of popular enlightenment versus the (?brief chapter) of foreign aggression against Iraq. It is a (?chapter) that is evident in the rabid campaigns that are using lies, factual distortion, and sensationalism, as well as all other forms of psychological warfare in which all the aggressor countries, their parties, branches, influences, tools, and mercenaries inside and outside the region are participating. They are doing this in a manner that brought together the political organs of Shamir, Bush, Fahd, Husni, and all the other parties of that unsuccessful and lying chorus which has failed to penetrate the minds and souls of Iraq's sons.

The sons of our people, through their interaction with their historic leadership and their solidarity with it—as embodied in the results of the inspection tours by some members of the leadership and officials—proclaim to the whole world their national nobility and total partiality to the policy of honor, dignity, and true belonging to great Iraq.

The sons of this people pride themselves on being outside the sphere of humiliation, loss of will, and subservience to the aggressor foreigner, who has designs on our sovereignty and resources. From this lofty position which resides in the hearts of all honorable Arabs—from this position which the Iraqis have forged for themselves through the generous contributions of their leadership and through their own sweat, blood, steadfastness, and perserverence—they see all their enemies as dwarfs. Iraq is greater than the enemies because of its historic leader Saddam Husayn and its mujahidin people. It is greater because of its unblemished honor and because of the special relationship between its people and leadership.

Statement on People's Love, Devotion to Saddam

LD1303215591 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2100 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi Embassy today handed to CTK [CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY] a statement from which we now quote: Iraqis in the mother of battles have depicted a brilliant picture which is equalled only in Arab history by the beginning of the immortal Islamic prophecy. They managed to determinedly and firmly resist the imperialist blockade and to foil a great plot striving to divide Iraq.

The statement of the Iraqi Embassy continues in the same spirit and stresses the fact that the Iraqi people today, as never before, honor the love and devotion toward the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. Efforts to break up the national unity will be quickly foiled, and the Iraqi people will throw all hypocritical conspirators on the heap of history. These were some quotes from the statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy.

Friendship Group Cables Support to Saddam

NC1303045891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Organization of Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity in Iraq has affirmed that Iraq will remain lofty and stronger than all conspiracies and evil plans, thanks to its wise and historic leadership under President Saddam Husayn.

A cable sent by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of the organization, to leader President Saddam Husayn said in part: Your heroic, courageous, and legendary stand in confronting the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression was further proof of your greatness as a leader, comrade, and beloved one to the [words indistinct] Iraqi people and Iraq's present and future greatness.

The organization affirmed in its cable that Iraq will always be a (?center) for Arabism and a true foundation and guide for the bright Arab and Islamic principles. It added that Iraq's spiteful enemies, who are bankrupt of any standard of civilization and devoid of any humanitarian norm, have been infuriated by our legendary confrontation of the fiercest and greatest conspiracy in our history. They proceeded to direct their anger at the steadfast Iraqi body without realizing that the Iraq of Arabism, Ba'th, and the July revolution cannot be touched by agents, sorcerers, and base people, and that it is stronger than all conspiracies and evil schemes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: 'Continuous Effort' Needed

NC1403094291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has called for a brave national stand to renew the pledge to rebuild and reconstruct what the destructive and indiscriminate international defiance ruined, and to destroy the card the enemies have wagered on against Iraq and its struggling people.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that today's enemies, including the imperialists and Zionists, are wagering on preoccupying Iraq with the [word indistinct] of their failing agents and criminals with the objective of destroying Iraq's accomplishments during the past 23 years.

It stressed that Iraq's sovereignty and strengthening of its [word indistinct] and stability requires a continuous effort from all state organs and institutions and from all the sons of Iraq in all locations, just as it also requires an honest concern, alert solidarity, and responsible realization of the [word indistinct] of responsibilities and the ferocity of internal and external challenges.

The newspaper pointed out that no party or marginal consideration can stop a strong and firm will and extraordinary patience and steadfastness in the process of developing and strengthening steps toward prosperity, progress, and development. [passage omitted]

Party Offices Said Seized, Official Killed

NC1403150791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition radio station has reported that the popular uprising's forces and the citizens of al-Thawrah city in the capital Baghdad succeeded in seizing Ba'th Party offices and police stations in the city. They also liberated the detainees of one prison. The radio added that Hamid Nusayyif Jasim, brother of the Iraqi information minister, who is the Ba'th Party official in al-Thawrah city was killed in a clash between the opposition forces and the forces of the ruling Ba'th party forces.

'Little Outward Sign' of Unrest in Baghdad

OW1203004091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0013 GMT 12 Mar 91

["No Sign of Unrest in Iraqi Capital—by a KYODO Special Correspondent"]

[Text] Amman, March 11 KYODO—There is little outward sign in Baghdad of the unrest in the north and south of Iraq, and people are going about their business, trying to adjust their lives to the devastation caused by the Persian Gulf War.

The problems of violent dissension that have hit the southern town of al-Basrah and surrounding areas, and the Kurdish north are not apparent in the Iraqi capital.

As reports spoke of violence in the Iraqi capital, journalists could find little trace of antigovernment dissent in the streets.

And there was little way of verifying the reports either, in view of the tight control the authorities kept on the foreign press before unceremoniously ejecting all Western journalists from the country last Friday [8 March].

Wherever one looks, people in Baghdad are busy making do with alternatives to the lack of electricity, water, and fuel, and have little time, at least for the present, to get into any debate over what is going on in the rest of the country.

Is it indifference caused by the aftereffects of the war or is it numbness? A stroll through the markets of the ancient capital of Mesopotamia indicates a combination of the two.

People are turning to kerosene stoves to make up for the shortage and high prices of cooking gas.

Baghdad is dark at night as a result of the destruction of power generating plants caused by allied bombing in the 40-day war. People have immediately turned to candles and kerosene lamps. Sure enough, the Government has promptly moved to increase the ration of kerosene.

Facing problems in every phase of life, very few Baghdadis have time to think of the crushing defeat of their country in the war.

"Our priorities now are to do with our daily needs," said a well-dressed Iraqi shopping for vegetables in a crowded market, who declined to be identified. "We need water, food, fuel, and power, and we have to get our life back together before we can think of anything else," he said.

At the other end of the city, people stand in line to collect their ration of foodstuffs. For many it has become a way of life after the UN Security Council imposed an international trade embargo against Iraq for its August 2 invasion of Kuwait. While the U.S.-led allied war against Iraq that ensued in January and February has ended with Kuwait liberated from Iraqi occupation, the embargo remains.

But despite the hardships it is very difficult to get people to denounce the Government of President Saddam Husayn. For many Iraqis, Husayn remains a god, who will sooner of later address their problems.

"Give him some time, and things will get back to normal," said a taxi driver, who identified himself as Ahmad. "We Iraqis are resourceful people, and we will be back on our feet soon."

Brave words indeed, considering the devastation of the economy and infrastructure the war has wreaked on this country of 18 million. Oil facilities, phosphate mines and plants, power houses, communication centers, government ministries and offices, and public buildings have been hit so badly it would take billions of dollars and years to repair them.

In the meantime, the Government also faces the problem of offering its demobilized soldiers the means to make a living. Many had been pulled out of the industrial sector, and many find they have no company, quite literally, to go back to.

16 Guards Officers, Troops Defect to Rebels

LD1403110491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] According to a report by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, the radio Voice of Revolutionary Iraq, recently set up in al-Basrah by the popular forces and monitored in Bakhtaran, in its 1000 hours newscast, local time [0630 GMT], announced that 16 high ranking officers from the 10th Armored Brigade of Iraq's Republican Guards, accompanied by a large number of troops, joined the popular forces in the al-Qurnah region, near al-Basrah.

The report added: The Republican Guards launched extensive attacks on the positions of popular forces north of al-Qurnah, but thanks to the resistance of the popular forces, these attacks were defeated and more than 20 tanks and armored vehicles of the 10th Armored Brigade of the Republican Guards were destroyed.

The said radio also announced the names of the officers who have defected from the Republican Guards of Iraq to join the popular forces.

Clashes Continue in Southern Cities

LD1403112791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Southern Iraqi cities, particularly the city of al-Najaf, remain the scene of bloody clashes between the popular forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist forces. On the basis of agency reports, the people have repulsed the latest attacks by government forces on al-Najaf.

According to an IRNA report quoting Iraqi refugees who have arrived in our country, the people of Iraq have captured many tanks in al-Basrah, al-Tannumah, al-Harithah, al-'Amarah, and al-Uzayr; and large numbers of Iraqi troops have joined the people in these regions. On the basis of this report, the Ba'thist forces continue shelling residential areas; so far many houses and mosques, including the al-Shatrah mosque in al-'Amarah, have been destroyed by tank fire and many people have been either wounded or martyred.

Reports from Raniyah, in the northern Governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq, indicate that in a battle between the popular forces and the government forces in this city, a Ba'th Party leader and 18 security and administrative officials of this city were killed. On the basis of this report, the people have arrested the governor of Raniyah, and the Sumer-Raniyah road is reopened and controlled by the popular forces.

Al-Hallah Taken; Babil Officials Executed

NC1403080291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] claims that al-Hallah, the largest city in the Babil Governorate, has fallen to the popular forces. SAIRI has issued Communique No. 34 saying that the popular forces also captured seven other cities in that governorate: al-Iskandariyah, al-Mahmudiyah, al-Musayyib, al-Yusufiyah, Sadat al-Hindiyah, Qasim, and Hamzah. SAIRI also noted that the opposition forces have executed four Ba'thist officials: Babil Governor 'Adnan Husayn; Babil Chief of Police Jabir Muhammad Gharib; Taha Yasin, head of the Ba'th Party's branch in Babil Governorate; and the al-Hillah security chief who is known by the name of (Muzal).

The statement adds that Khalid 'Abdallah al-Takriti, chief of the Ba'th Party branch in al-Diwaniyah Governorate, was executed. The statement adds that the revolutionaries have downed four helicopters of the Republican Guards.

Reportage on Kurdish Struggle To Capture Karkuk

Bridges Demolished

LD1203150291 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., Mar. 12, IRNA—According to reports from northern Iraq, Iraqi dissident Kurds based 10 kms from Karkuk, were continuing their fighting to capture the northeastern Iraqi city. Iraqi refugees fleeing to Iran Tuesday claimed that Iraqi government troops have demolished three bridges around Karkuk in a bid to prevent the city from falling into the hands of Kurdish militants.

They also claimed the towns of Thur, Hulir [names as received] and Khanaqin were under full control of Kurds and other groups of people. The people of these towns were just suffering from fuel and food shortages, they said. The claims have not yet been confirmed by any independent source.

'Pitched Battles' Raging

LD1303145191 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 13, IRNA—Pitched battles between Iraqi people and government troops are raging in the northern Kurdish-populated city of Karkuk, the spokesman for Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told IRNA Wednesday.

The spokesman, Baqir Fattah also said the Iraqi troops have launched a full-scale assault on Khanaqin, now under complete control of [the] people.

He said a helicopter trying to strafe people was shot down in [the] Klar region in the northern governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah, Wednesday morning, killing its pilot and co-pilot whom he identified as Kamal 'Abd-al-Razzaq and Mahmud 'Abbas Laftiy respectively.

Three Helicopters Downed

LD1403101191 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iraqi Government troops on Wednesday set ablaze two oil wells in the central part of the northern Karkuk Governorate in battles with popular forces. A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan said on Wednesday that the two wells continue to burn, but that the attacks of the government troops had been repelled by the militant Kurds.

In a related report the militant Kurds of Iraq on Wednesday shot down three army helicopters which were about to bombard Khanaqin, and Tuz Khurmatu in Karkuk Governorate of Iraq. He said the popular forces in Iraq had liberated Akria, Bajil, Dinarta, Shera encampment, Kardassin, Dahuk, Makhmur, and Baqirta and Darhaman in predominantly Kurdish regions of northern Iraq.

Kurdish Rebels Advance Toward Dahuk Governorate

LD1303142891 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Sanandaj, Mar. 13, IRNA—Having purged al-Sulaymaniyah of remaining government troops, Iraqi Kurdish dissidents began on Wednesday to advance towards Dahuk Governorate, a Kurdish refugee told IRNA. The refugee said that during the mopping up operations, the Iraqi Kurds managed to take a firm hold of the towns of Jalula, Qareh Anjir, Kallehjo and Jabbari [placenames as received].

Iraqi Kurds who have entirely surrounded Karkuk city were closing in on government forces in an effort to capture the city, he said, adding that each day several women and children in northern Iraq were killed in heavy artillery bombings by government troops. He did not disclose the exact number of casualties.

Opposition Forces Claim Captured Cities, Areas

NC1303140691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Iraqi popular uprising has announced that the city of al-Sa'diyah on the Diyala Dam has been liberated and is currently in the hands of the popular forces.

A statement issued by the council today said that the uprising's radio station began to broadcast its programs from inside Iraqi territory yesterday under the name of the Voice of Revolutionary Iraq [Sawt al-'Iraq al-Tha'ir].

In addition, 1,000 Iraqi troops, including several senior officers, stationed near the Turkish border announced yesterday that they were joining the popular forces.

The statement added that the cities of Hajj 'Umran, (Khlayfan), Kifri, and Tuz fell to the popular masses. It said that the Barzan area to the east of Dahuk, Rawandoz to the north of Irbil, and Sidikan in the northeast of the Irbil Governorate have all been liberated by the masses and the popular forces.

Minister Lists Mosques, Churches Damaged by War

NC1303130291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—A specialized committee in the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has started to take an inventory of the damages to the mosques, churches, and places of worship as a result of the air and missile attacks by American-Zionist-Atlantic forces of aggression.

Speaking to INA, 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, said that the committee has indicated the necessary requirements for rebuilding mosques and places of worship.

The minister said the first priority will be given to mosques, churches, and places of warship in Baghdad, to be followed by those in other Iraqi governorates. He said the affected mosques and churches in Baghdad include the mosques of Hanan, al-Su'alayah, 'Ali Afandi, al-'Adliyah, 'Adilah, Khatun, al-Khaffafin, al-Qamariyah, Maluki, al-Ahmadi, al-Zbak, Sit Nafisah, and al-Murad, as well as the Maryam al-'Adhra' Church for the Armenian Orthodox community and the Maryam Church for the Chaldean Nuns in Baghdad.

The minister said the forces of tyranny and aggression inflicted massive damage on the Grand al-Hillah Mosque, the Abu-al-Fadl Tomb, the Babil Governorate's Husayniyah society, the Grand al-Diwaniyah Mosque, the Grand Mosque of al-Samawah, the Grand Moasque of al-Sharafi, the al-Shuraqfi al-Saghir Mosque, the Husaniyah [name indistinct] in al-Muthanna Governorate, and the Wasit Grand Mosque.

The minister also said that the aggression inflicted great damage on the mosques of al-Salih, Haj Shakir al-Fayyadh, Muhammad al-Fayyadh, and al-Siddiq in al-Fallujah; the Imam al-Sahfi'i and al-Faruq Mosques in al-Anbar Governorate; and the Mar Korkis Church. The aggression also destroyed ten mosques in Abu-al-Khasib, the mosques of Sayyidna 'Uthman, the Grand al-Basrah Mosque, and the mosques of al-Faw, al-'Uthman, al-'Ikl, Miz'il Basha, Haj 'Abbas, and al-Suq in the al-Basrah Governorate. The tomb of the Prophet Jirjis, the mosque of Imam Ibrahim, and the Mar Tuma Church in the Ninawah Governorate were also damaged.

Refugees Describe Demonstrations, Fighting

LD1303120291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran report: To maintain control of the Baghdad-Khanaqin axis, the Iraqi regime has deployed a massive force. According to the Central News Unit, which cites the Iraqi refugees, the helicopter gunships of the Iraqi Army have been firing at people while overflying towns where the Iraqi regime's forces have lost control. Once the streets are left deserted, the tanks enter the towns, the refugees said. But in the evenings the Iraqi military forces once again lose control as the people attack the tanks.

According to the report received from the Central News Unit in Bakhtaran citing the Iraqi refugees: The town of Karkuk and the Darman District in the northeast of that town were scenes of the most intense fighting between the opposition and the Ba'thist forces, to the extent that the Iraqi forces found themselves unable to control the situation in Darman. In the course of those clashes a number of Iraqi Army officers and pilots began fighting the Ba'thist forces and joined the popular forces.

According to another Central News Unit report, various districts in Baghdad witnessed massive popular demonstration yesterday, which continued until noon today. In these demonstrations, which culminated in clashes, people from both sides were killed or injured.

Furthermore according to the latest reports from inside Iraq, the towns of al-Najaf and Karbala' have been scenes of growing popular opposition to the Ba'thist forces. To gain a grip on the situation, the Iraqi forces have embarked massive massacres of the people. According to the latest reports, the Iraqi Republican Guard has besieged those two towns in an attempt to control the situation, despite continuous popular resistance. [passage omitted]

An IRNA report citing the Iraqi refugees has confirmed an escalation of clashes between the popular and the military forces. In the words of the Iraqi refugees who arrived in Iran today, to suppress the popular uprising in the town of al-Basrah, the Iraqi Army has resorted to using incendiary napalm bombs, thereby martyring the citizens of that city who have been resisting the Iraqi forces. According to the Iraqi refugees despite the use of heavy artillery and the extensive deployment of napalm bombs, the Iraqi Republican Guard has so far been unsuccessful in bringing al-Basrah under their total control. One of the citizens of al-Basrah who arrived in Iran last night told the IRNA reporter that the battle in the disiricts of Najibiyyah, Jamilah, and Ishar in the town of al-Basrah has been intensifying between the popular and government forces, with the popular forces trying to drive away the Iraqi military forces based in parts of that town. On the basis of the same report, 30 Iraqi civilians, injured as a result of napalm bombs in the town of al-Basrah and its environs, have taken refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The same report adds that intensive clashes are currently taking place between the popular and Iraqi forces in the towns of al-Zubayr and Abu-al-Khasib, but the Iraqi Republican Guard has halted the movement of the popular forces toward those towns by deploying heavy artillery. [passage omitted]

Opposition May Establish New Front After Congress

LD1403134191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The general congress of Iraqi opposition forces ended its work yesterday in Beirut. About 30 political and religious figures representing 30 Iraqi parties and groups, worked for three days in Beirut to lay firm foundations for a united organization of opponents of the Iraqi regime. This is while the popular revolt is continuing in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Under such circumstances the future destiny of the Iraqi regime is unclear—and, according to some analysts, owing to the security system in Iraq and the crushing of different forces, and also in view of the specific ethnic

and religious complexities of that country, no one or no organization—under current circumstances—will be able to form a government that is acceptable to everyone.

Thus, taking note of these factors, 30 organizations and groups opposed to the Iraqi regime, some of which had already met and conferred with each other in Damascus, convened their first general congress in Beirut this week. It is clear that two major tendencies—one religious and the other secular—cast their shadow over the congress and, bearing in mind ideological differences within the political tendencies of each of these groups, it was not expected that this three-day congress would be able to review and solve all of Iraq's future problems. An informed source said: After the 17 groups in opposition to the Iraqi regime issued their statement about two months ago in Damascus and called for the formation of an interim government, the secular tendency—approximately 48 hours before the staging of the Beirut Congress—called on the others to discuss the question of the formation of a 35-member interim government and decide over it. But the religious tendency thought that this period of time was not adequate to discuss the issue and come up with a such a decision. It requested that the Beirut sessions discuss the question of the leadership and organizational aspects of the opposition camp, and that the question of the formation of an interim government should be placed on the agenda of talks held after the Beirut Congress.

The final statement of the Beirut Congress urges the Iraqi Armed Forces to oppose the Government of Iraq and to refrain from crushing the people. The second paragraph of the statement declares that efforts should be made to render responsive the organizational and structural framework of the Iraqi opposition and move them toward an all-encompassing unity. Some experts believe that if these groups are able to advance the organizational aspects of their work, they will very probably organize a front that will gather together all the groups regardless of their ideological outlook. The members of its executive committee, acting as an interim government, would be shared between the parties in proportion to the circumstances and strength of the different parties. The real objective of this front would be to establish a democratic government based on the wishes of the majority of the people in Iraq.

All the same, it has to be taken into consideration that any future government in Iraq cannot ignore the fact that the people of Iraq are Muslims and consider Islam above anything else.

Information Minister's Brother Killed in Uprising

LD1303173391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Iraqi opposition members have seized control of some areas of al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq from the Ba'thist forces and have started their progress toward Dehuk Governorate. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, the Iraqi opposition radio, heard in Ahvaz, said: Popular forces have taken the police and intelligence [estekhbarat] center in the al-Sora township of Baghdad and freed the prisoners there. The radio also announced: Hamid Nusayyif Jasim, the al-Sora Ba'th Party's official in charge and brother of Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the Iraqi minister of culture information, was killed during the popular uprising in the al-Sora township. [passage omitted]

Gas Resupply, Flour Quotas Increase Noted

NC1303195691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting pursuant to his excellency's instructions. [sentence as heard] During the meeting, the resumption of supplying the citizens with gasoline [words indistinct] was discussed. It was decided to resume supplying citizens in Baghdad with 30 liters of gasoline every 20 days as of next Sunday, 17 March; 75 liters of diesel oil for minibuses; and 120 liters for buses.

The Oil Ministry will issue the necessary instructions to implement this. It was also decided during the meeting to increase the citizens' monthly quotas of flour from five kg to six kg, beginning with the April quotas.

Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and the under secretaries of the Ministries of Industry and Military Industrialization and Transport attended the meeting.

Journal Reports on Status of Oil Installations

NC1103094791 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Nicosia, March 11 (AFP)—Iraq's oil export capacity has been cut by more than two thirds because of damage to facilities in the Gulf war, which erupted Jauary 17 and lasted 42 days, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

In addition, according to MEES, several of Baghdad's most productive oil fields are located in an area of southern Iraq now occupied by allied forces, notably the North al-Rumaylah, South al-Rumaylah, al-Zubayr and al-Luhays fields and the oil town of al-Burgisiyah.

Iraq prior to its August 2 invasion of Kuwait was producing around 3.2 million barrels a day and exporting 2.5 million barrels.

Citing "reliable sources," MEES said a pumping station south of al-Zubayr had been subjected to aerial attack, along with nearby surface facilities and pipelines.

The station, according to the publication, "is the main dispatch point for pumping 1.6 million barrels a day of al-Basrah Light crude" via pipeline across Saudi Arabia to a terminal on the Red Sea.

It has also been used to transport al-Faw Blend crude to the Mina' al-Bakr terminal in the northern Gulf, the newsletter said.

Oil installations in northern Iraq are intact, MEES reported, enabling the export of around 800,000 barrels a day of Karkuk crude via an Iraqi-Turkish pipeline to the Mediterranean.

The line has a capacity of 1.6 million barrels a day but only half that amount will be able to be exported because of damage to a key pumping station in the town of Hadithah.

Turkey halted the shipment of oil across the pipeline in compliance with United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed on Baghdad last August after the invasion.

The sanctions remain in effect despite the recent liberation of Kuwait by allied troops.

Unemployment Among Demobilized Soldiers Reported

JN1103133091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 91 p 1

[By P. V. Vivekanand in Baghdad]

[Text] The demobilisation of several divisions and units, including reserves, in the Iraqi army has gone into full gear to the relief of many Iraqi families which now hope that the homecoming soldiers could go back to their regular work at farms and elesewhere in the agricultural and industrial sectors to cope with the aftereffects of the 40-day war which ended late last month. But the process is a tough one.

Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers could be seen in the streets of Baghdad, toting haversacks and awaiting transportation home, sometimes to villages as far as the Turkish border.

"I am glad the war is over," said Muhammad Shitwa, from a town near Mosul in the north. "Now I can go home and look after my small sheep farm," he said.

But many are not as lucky as Shitwa to have something to go back to. Many would find themselves jobless as a result of the devastation caused by the allied bombing of key industrial sites and installations.

"I don't know whether I would find the hotel I used to work for," said Husayn Qishtal, also from near Mosul. "They tell me many sites in and around Mosul have been hit. I pray the hotel was not one of them."

The main railway between Baghdad and Mosul and further north is accessible only to the army, at least for the duration of the demobilisation.

The dismantling of army units appears to be in line with the government's goal of restoring normalcy as soon as possible and launch quick post-war reconstruction—a job easier said than done, considering the early estimates of the extent of damage that 40 days of intense bombing have done to Iraq.

According to people arriving in Baghdad from the north, among those hard hit in the blitzkrieg are the phosphate production mining and processing facilities, oil installations and telecommunications centres, in addition to hundreds of industrial sites.

Many of the reservist soldiers have come from these facilities and find themselves with no employment to go back to.

Also hit was the biggest Iraqi refinery at Bayji, halfway between Mosul and Baghdad, as well as a huge oil storage facility which used to serve the entire country.

"It might take some time before an accurate assessment is made of the damages," said a senior U.N. official.

But, according to first reports, oil production is one of the key areas badly damaged. Hundreds of thousands of people working in this sector were called to army duty prior to the war: Not much of a production loss, however, since Iraqi oil exports had come to a halt since early August when the U.N. Security Council imposed a sweeping trade embargo on Iraq.

In any event, unemployed soldiers in all parts of Iraq is a key issue that the government has to tackle with utmost urgency. But the innovative people of Iraq are also contributing to the effort.

"I was driving a taxi before I was called for duty," Ahmad said. "Now I am back but I cannot drive a car since there is not enough fuel to go around," he explained referring to the fuel rationing the authorities introduced to cope with reduced oil production as a result of the allied bombing. "Now I sell tomatoes and cucumber and try to make a living. I'll go back to driving taxis when things get back to normal, which will be quite soon, God willing," he added with a sigh.

The ability of the Iraqi people to adapt is indeed is the back of the nation of 18 million people who trace their origins to 5,000 years back. [sentence as published]

In the meantime, Baghdad, the city of the thousand nights, remains dark at night in the absence of power. But, as a hotel waiter put it, "we have to live with it and but with confidence that things will be back as they were before Jan. 17"—the day the war started.

Shamir Interviewed on Baker Visit

TA1303201891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by moderator Yoram Ronen and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin, on the weekly "Moqed" program—live from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening, Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, it has already been reported that during his visit here Baker did not raise new ideas and did not reiterate President Bush's remarks of last week that we must stick to the territory-for-peace formula. Baker, however, referred to revolutionary thinking in the Arab world, about their readiness to show flexibility. Did he find such a readiness for flexibility also with us, with you?

[Shamir] First, I would say that we should not exaggerate, not that he did not say anything about new ideas, he did.

[Ronen] His own ideas?

[Shamir] His and others. He did not present a complete plan to solve the conflict, but there were ideas. He also did not tell us about a revolution in the Arab world. He only pointed out that there are positive and new signs. That is, of course, encouraging.

[Ronen] How is that expressed?

[Shamir] It is expressed mainly in various statements made by Arab leaders about Israel and their attitudes toward Israel. We no longer hear the stereotype definitions, the denunciations, the expressions of hatred. Things are more logical.

[Halperin] Have they come around to living with Israel's existence in the region?

[Shamir] They do not say so, but it seems something like that. They do not talk about destruction, they talk about referring to Israel as a fact.

[Halperin] Does this refer to the eight countries which participated in the coalition.

[Shamir] He [Baker] did not refer to all eight but said that was the situation among those countries. That is, of course, encouraging. We heard about it, but he simply testified about what he heard himself, and that is impressive.

[Ronen] You said it is encouraging. That is perhaps a sign of certain flexibility among those countries. I repeat the question, did he find such flexibility also with you?

[Shamir] With us there is always flexibility. As long as peace and efforts for peace are being discussed, then we are always ready to move toward peace, to act for it, and among us one will never find words of hatred and incitement and hostility toward the Arab states. There is no such thing among us. The innovation is on the other side. It is too early to prove that there is some all-out readiness to open their arms and embrace us.

[Ronen] You say there has been an innovation on the other side, that there has been no change on our side.

[Shamir] On our part there must be something that promotes that phenomenon.

[Halperin] Which has to come from the other side?

[Shamir] Of course.

[Halperin] So, let us talk about our flexibility, if it exists. President Bush referred to two principles before Baker arrived here. He talked about territory for peace and about political rights for the Palestinians. UN Resolution 242, which is the basis for the Camp David accords and the government's peace initiative, refers to a withdrawal from the territories, among other things. Do you believe that the great concession made in Sinai absolves Israel from any additional territorial concessions?

[Shamir] I will not go into theoretical discussions. I can only tell you that in the very wide-ranging and deep discussions we conducted with Secretary Baker the expressions you mentioned were not used—neither territory for peace nor all sorts of territorial things. There were, however, discussions about a peace plan. Why were those things that you mentioned not discussed?

[Halperin] Because it annoys you.

[Shamir] No, no. Not because it is annoying and not because it is off limits. It is simple enough, there is no need for it. What is our peace plan? We say that in an effort to further peace we are moving along two axes, or as they, say on two tracks: One effort is to reach peace and normalization between the Arab states and the State of Israel. The second axis is to reach peace between the State of Israel and the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, or as they call themselves, the Palestinians. Both those efforts must be intertwined.

We assume that if we succeed on the track with the Arabs states it will also have a major influence on the track with the Palestinians and the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. What are we proposing? What is the path toward a solution? Our path is most simple. I would say too simple, or so it seems. We will conduct negotiations with the Arabs who want it in two stages. First stage is self-rule or autonomy, or whatever it is called, for an interim period, for interim settlements. If we are referring to the Arab states then we are referring to peace, borders, etc. If we are talking about the Palestinians then we cannot now reach a full division of the land. That is our approach, so that is why there will be interim arrangements. What are the interim arrangements? According to the Camp David accords they are in two stages, autonomy, or something similar to it, for a period of several years, and then negotiations on a permanent

solution. What will the permanent solution be? Nobody is saying, nobody can undertake such a thing. There is not a single word about whether the permanent solution is territorial or not. We will conduct negotiations on the permanent solution. Both sides will conduct negotiations until they reach an agreed solution, and the problem is solved.

[Ronen] In this entire scenario, you did not mention elections in the territories. Are we giving them up?

[Shamir] Well, elections could....[pauses] For instance, who would conduct the negotiations? How would the delegates be appointed? Opinions on this vary and, in principle, all these elements are not of vital significance. The Camp David style autonomy included elections, but they are not a prerequisite. These principles have to be determined through consent between us and the Arabs.

[Ronen] Let us now return to the issue of Syria, Mr. Prime Minister. Tonight we saw Baker hold talks with al-Asad in Damascus. We are receiving more and more reports saying that Syria, too, is ready to be flexible, provided we evacuate the Golan Heights, or that we agree to discuss the issue. We are saying: The Golan Heights are a part of Eretz Yisra'el, while Syria is saying: We will talk with you only if you show willingness to withdraw. Is this not an invitation to an eternal dead end?

[Shamir] Perhaps I will be able to somewhat cool your enthusiasm: When there was talk of eight Arab countries showing certain signs of a different attitude toward Israel, a more human attitude, I would say, Syria was not one of them.

[Ronen] Did not Baker mention Syria?

[Shamir] He did not say that Syria, too, is changing. No, Syria is in a class by itself. The Americans—and not only they, the other Western countries as well—see the Syrians as a separate entity. Although they regard Syria as an important country and would like very much to achieve greater normalization of ties with Syria, which is in a class by itself, no sounds are emanating from Syria that would indicate a more positive approach toward Israel. That country is something different.

[Halperin] It is an important, as well as a dangerous country. It has just purchased upgraded Scuds. David Levi said some time ago that he sees no substantial difference between Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad.

[Shamir] He is not the first nor the last to say this, and Israelis are not the only people saying it; I have heard Americans say the same thing. The Americans, too, still view Syria as a anomalous country, which has not stopped its relations with terrorism as yet. Syria is a different story.

[Halperin] Is it the main threat to Israel?

[Shamir] It is a threat. The Scuds you have mentioned, and Syria's entire approach of preparing the Syrian nation for the one great war against Israel, show that the danger is still there.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, you spoke of the two tracks, which have also been discussed by the Americans: that of talks with the Palestinians and another of talks with Arab countries. In this context, there is also talk of a regional conference in which all the Middle East countries, including Israel, would participate. Will you agree to joint U.S.-USSR patronage to such a conference, provided, of course, that the Soviet Union resumes diplomatic relations with us?

[Shamir, laughing] First of all, don't rush. We are still far from conferences. To begin with, many are still talking about an international conference. We have been told that 14 of the 15 Security Council members demand categorically that an international conference be convened. For reasons of its own, Israel does not want it.

As for a regional conference, it has not been discussed so far, and no one has proposed it. There was talk of regional meetings, of encounters.

[Halperin] Did not Israel raise this idea on its own initiative?

[Shamir] Israel has certain ideas about regional encounters and regional activities. For instance: Suppose that tomorrow Israel will meet with one or two Arab countries; we will talk; then, Israeli professionals will meet with their counterparts from another, or other, Arab country or countries. We are interested in a regional life into which Israel is incorporated. From the political viewpoint we are still far from it, because the other side has to agree first, and there should be some plan, some program to that end.

Now, in every intercourse to ever be held between Israel and the region's Arab countries, majority is not to be of any significance. Israel should be always 50 percent of a whole, with the Arab countries being the second half. This principle should be adhered to. To sum up, the present situation does not seem as yet capable of offering a solution to all the problems. But, I do not think it is necessary. If they endorse our two-track approach, I believe we will have the most realistic solution and, in my opinion, the easiest.

[Halperin] You spoke of eight countries, then you excluded one. What do we have left? Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Emirates. What controversy do we have with them? As for Egypt, we already have peace with it. What controversy do we have with Saudi Arabia, a zealous Muslim country which resorts to acerbic anti-Semitic verbal expressions? What will we discuss with it, and to what end?

[Shamir] Look, Saudi Arabia is a very important country in this region; it decides many things. It is an economic superpower; it supports many causes and refrains from

supporting others. It can have influence. Until recently it supported the PLO and filled its coffers, and this made a difference. Furthermore, it gave money to Syria, which is the most radical country here. If, for instance, it abstains from doing it tomorrow, if tomorrow it withholds its money from the PLO and Syria if the latter encourage extremist trends, the whole region will be different. And, there are certain signs that there is something to talk about, which is encouraging, which is good.

[Ronen] Do I detect a hint in your remarks that perhaps peace can be attained via Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] Well, it is perhaps too narrow a pipeline, but it is needed too, as is every single other country. We held discussions with Egypt, for instance, and we reached a stage in which a peace accord was signed. I would like to attain this stage with an additional country; with Jordan, for instance, with which we have a long border. Why not? Perhaps with another country, as well. This is how progress should be made, because peace will not drop out of the sky all at once.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to remind you once more what President Bush said last week. You said that Baker did not speak of territory for peace, but Bush did stress this point. Bush also spoke of a new world order, saying that the Arab-Israeli conflict must be solved once and for all. American reporters, who were here during Baker's visit and with whom we talked, said that there is no pressure in the current round, but in the next round, the Americans will take off their gloves and exert pressure on both sides—on us and the Arabs. You said in the Likud caucus some time ago that we must resort to every tactic to prevent these pressures. Well?

[Shamir] Let us cross that bridge when we get to it. Yesterday and the day before yesterday, we held a series of very interesting—fascinating, really—and profound talks which were conducted in an atmosphere of good will with one of the most important representatives of the United States. This was a good beginning. We will see what the sequence will be.

[Ronen] Did you not feel the Americans would like to act fast so as to exploit their tremendous military victory for a political achievement in this region?

[Shamir] There is no doubt that they want to act fast, they have said as much: We have a great opportunity here; we have won in a great, a very convincing, a very decisive way; we enjoy great prestige, so let us use that prestige for a good cause. And I agree with them.

[Halperin] Do you agree that quick action should be taken?

[Shamir] I agree. I have no interest in dragging my feet, none whatsoever. If we could reach a good, beneficial, and satisfactory solution today, why not?

[Halperin] Let us then address the second point of Bush's speech. We have discussed, or not discussed, the territory-for-peace principle. Let us now speak about political rights for Palestinians. Look, the Americans are not proposing a Palestinian state; they are talking about autonomy, self-rule. Does not the latter imply political rights? Why does Israel recoil at the word political rights?

[Shamir] I refrain from entering such theoretical, such dogmatic arguments; I do not like legal experts very much, because they sometimes generate problems. What I do say is this: In the second stage, after autonomy, let us start negotiations, let us negotiate the permanent solution. In view of this, what use is all this talk about political rights? Of course political rights of one kind or another will be discussed there. What is there to discuss now, at this stage?

[Halperin] Why can you not talk now to these people out there in Nabulus and Hebron? Why can there be no Israeli gesture or Israeli initiative for the benefit of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who live here, right next to us?

[Shamir] I tell them: Welcome. Let us enter negotiations, and then we will discuss everything.

[Halperin] But before negotiations, there should be an opening to the dialogue.

[Shamir] Why before the negotiations? What do we say before the negotiations? When we start negotiations, we will solve all the problems. If negotiations are not launched, if they stage demonstrations, if they resort to violence, the entire process will go off course, and then all that can be discussed will be the demonstrations, the arrests, the deportations, and so on and so forth. Things will veer off the proper course. What do we need this for? It is unnecessary.

[Halperin] Sir, Baker and the troika held talks with the Palestinian delegations. Why can't the Israeli Government do the same?

[Shamir] We are ready to discuss the solution which we have offered. There are certain bodies with a considerable influence on these people, such as the PLO, which forbid them to discuss it with us; they forbid them to conduct negotiations on these issues. We constantly ask that the Arab countries join this campaign for peace, because they will be able to influence the Palestinians. And, if the United States joins us, it will also influence the situation. At present, the United States has a certain friendship, a certain amount of trust and amity with the Arab countries. It, too, should join the process.

[Ronen] Yesterday Baker met with a Palestinian delegation, which said it was attending the meeting with a PLO permission. But you, Mr. Prime Minister, with whom do you meet? Why can you not resume the series of meetings you used to have with Palestinians, such as Jamil al-Tarifi? That was two years ago, I believe, and there have been no encounters since then.

[Shamir] I will hold such meetings.

[Ronen] With Palestinian leaders?

[Shamir] Yes! The defense minister also holds occasional talks.

[Ronen] He has not for a long time.

[Shamir] Yes he has. This is an arduous path, however, and who knows where and when it will get us. What we are proposing today is that the Arab countries and the United States, with all its capability and diplomatic power, join the effort. They can accelerate the process.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, the intifadah was renewed almost the day the war ended. This week there was the dastardly murder of four women in Qiryat Yovel in Jerusalem. We are again hearing talk here about insecurity, distress, a feeling that this situation cannot go on for long. Do you still believe that there is a military solution to the intifadah?

[Shamir] We do not talk about military solutions. If we are attacked we have to defend ourselves, we must uproot the focus of aggression. There is no other way. The U.S. secretary of state and the Spanish foreign minister asked me why don't you make some sort of gesture, for instance, cancel the deportation orders, the administrative detentions.

[Halperin] Why not?

[Shamir] I said, yes, certainly. We are prepared to do that, but there must be no violence. That is not our policy. We are not interested in it. We have no need for deportations or administrative detentions or other detentions. We have no interest in it. If they stop the violence all of that will disappear as though it never existed. That is our policy.

[Ronen] From your remarks I understand, Mr. Prime Minister, that the long-term solution for the intifadah is really only political.

[Shamir] That is not a solution to the intifadah. We are talking about a peace solution. If they do not want peace then it has to be enforced. Let us rather use the word security. We have to fight for security. We have been living in that situation in this region for many years. The same rule applies to the Arab states, Syria, all the Arab states. Suddenly we had to deal with Iraq, in the past it was Egypt. We have gone through wars. So what is the solution? Is it a military war? No, war brings about a suspension of terrorist hostile activities, it does not stop them completely, forever. We want peace.

[Ronen] Perhaps, in the current difficult situation we should accept the solution proposed by Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi and others of a complete cut-off between us and the population of the territories? Us here and them there.

[Shamir] That is something completely different, it is not a question of peace. What we are proposing—the two-track approach—must lead to peace, to the settling of the conflict. So that all those problems no longer exist.

[Halperin] Yoram Ronen said the war with Iraq has ended although Saddam Husayn is still in Baghdad, or near there.

[Shamir] To my great regret.

[Halperin] The Scuds are still in western Iraq and there might still be chemical weapons there. What that war showed is the Israeli civilian populations' vulnerability. The debate over the security value of the territories has come up again. I am sure that you have hardened your view that the territories are important for the security of the coastal region. Nevertheless, there has been a serious disclosure that the public is in fact vulnerable to weapons hundreds of kilometers away and that might call for new strategic and political thinking.

[Shamir] It is true that was a new phenomenon in that war. We can expect to be vulnerable to even greater dangers than we were in the past. All wars have their specific characteristics and aspects and we must always find ways to defend ourselves against those dangers. It is, however, clear that without the element of territory on which this country exists and which it controls, we cannot defend the existence of a people and a state. It is sometimes not enough because we also need defensive weapons against incoming missiles, and we will overcome that as well.

[Halperin] The Arrow missile?

[Shamir] The Arrow. We will have solutions for that as well. That is the way things go, but without the territory on which we live then there is nothing to talk about.

[Ronen] The territory of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shamir] Each to his own faith and belief.

[Ronen] That is your faith or your dream.

[Shamir] Certainly. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Has the period of restraint and passivity passed?

[Shamir] There was not a moment of passivity and it is not so much an issue of restraint. Most important decisions were made during the war and not because we had no choice. We had choices. Now, I believe, many in Israel and around the world realize that our decisions were correct. That does not mean that will always be the situation.

[Halperin] There was also the U.S. order to sit and do nothing.

[Shamir] It was not an order. They tried to convince us, they begged us and enticed us, but they certainly took into account that it is possible that we might not listen to

them and that we might act as we deem right. We did not do so, but it could be different in a different situation.

[Halperin] The new U.S. role in the world, the might. You have referred to it. The feeling that they have the capability, that they can dictate to the world as they see fit. Is that not of concern? Israel is a small country; there is no longer a balance, no longer a counterbalance to U.S. might. The United States is now our friend and that is good for us, but in the long run Israel might become pawn, a protectorate in the world empire the United States is creating?

[Shamir] Your question is fascinating, but it is abstract. Why should we deal with that. Can we change that situation? Can we in our corner create a second or third superpower? That is the situation. The United States is currently the only superpower, with all that it entails, both the advantages and the disadvantages involved. We must live in this world and in these circumstances and look after ourselves and find the right way to talk with the United States. That is what we will try to do. Why should we split hairs about whether it is good or bad? That is the situation, that is the reality with which we have to live.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, one last sentence to conclude. Does peace now look closer than before the war?

[Shamir] Of course, of course. I claim that we are advancing toward peace. You recall that when you spoke with me during the missile war, I said that we are drawing close to the end. That was a different situation. It was clear to me that another few days or another a week and we will reach it. Peace is slightly more distant, but we are coming closer to it. I have no doubt about that. The very existence of Israel and the very fact that nobody is capable of destroying it, forces all those surrounding us to get used to the idea of our existence. What does that mean? It means peace.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, there are still some outstanding questions we wanted to ask you, but we will leave them for another time. Thank you.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir Rejects Superpower Sponsorship of Talks

TA1403115091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir categorically objects to the two superpowers sponsoring the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs, sources in the prime minister's bureau asserted last night. Political sources in Jerusalem, however, noted that it is slowly becoming clear that this is the formula favored by the United States and that this issue will be discussed in depth during Secretary of State Baker's visit to Moscow.

The sources noted that Baker had said in his talks in Jerusalem that he is working on the normalization of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. U.S. officials said Baker believes the resumption of Soviet-Israeli relations would affect Shamir's long-standing opposition to the proposed forum. In his talks with Shamir, Baker "put two and two together"— Israel's agreement to a regional conference and the notion of sponsorship by the superpowers—and, as the Americans said later, "Shamir did not say no."

Nevertheless, sources in Shamir's bureau asserted last night that the prime minister is opposed to any superpower sponsorship whatsoever of direct talks between Israel and the Arabs, although he is willing to accept U.S. "involvement." The sources pointed out that although Shamir had in the past agreed to have the superpowers issue the "invitation" to the talks, many things have changed since then "and the situation in the Soviet Union is unstable." [passage omitted]

Shoval Remarks on Outcome of Talks With Baker

TA1303160191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the U.S., by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good evening. You participated in many of the talks held here by Secretary Baker; those with Moshe Arens and Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shoval] Also with David Levi.

[Reshef] Of course. We have already heard that Yitzhaq Shamir told the Inner Cabinet today that no plans were presented, that there was merely an exchange of views. Can you tell us what the U.S.—perhaps the U.S.-Israeli—target is in the short run?

[Shoval] Look, in my view, in the short run it is to exploit the change that has taken place in the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf crisis in order to try to advance peace along two courses, or as Baker said, two tracks [preceding two words in English]. One track is the Arab states-Israel issue, and the other is the Palestinian issue. That was the Israeli approach all along.

[Reshef] What is the significance of that?

[Shoval] Look, Baker's visit is like the opening of an opera. There are sections with just sounds, there are hints, but the entire plot still does not exist. He did not come with a concrete plan. Israel, as is known, has a plan, the peace initiative of 1989. Baker said that he appreciates the fact that Israel has reaffirmed that plan. I believe it is the basis for the start of at least one of the tracks.

[Reshef] To be more specific, what is the next operational move? Another round? An attempt to fix lists [of candidates]? To hold elections? Do you have any estimate?

[Shoval] First of all, Baker's mission is still not over. We have to see what happens in Damascus, and in Ankara, and even in Moscow. I believe that we will hear, at least that is what we hope, through him or directly from the Arab capitals, that there is a certain willingness to start moves to normalize relations between them and us, such as the lifting of the Arab boycott, the ending of the state of war.

[Reshef] Do you believe that there can be an Arab gesture to agree to sit at the table with Israel without prior conditions?

[Shoval] Without prior conditions, certainly. We will not agree to anything with prior conditions.

[Reshef] I am asking from an Arab perspective, whether we are expecting such a gesture?

[Shoval] We are certainly expecting such a thing because the states in the U.S. coalition today exist thanks to U.S. support and their future security will to a large extent depend on the Americans. So if there is a U.S. policy which leads to peace, and it is my impression that is what they want, then I would certainly....

[Reshef, interrupting] There is certainly a significant change, from their perspective, which would call for some gesture on our part, no?

[Shoval] Certainly. That is precisely the two-track approach [preceding three words in English]. Those are the two courses. It is possible that Mr. Baker will find himself in a situation of the marriage broker who hears about a gesture from one side, keeps it to himself, and hears about a gesture from the other side, and then makes both gestures public at the same time.

[Reshef] What sort of gesture can we offer?

[Shoval] We have already proposed something. For instance, we offered elections in the territories, we offered certain arrangements for the refugee camps. There might be additional ideas, but I believe that now we should hear that the basic problem—the war situation between the Arab world and ourselves—is reaching some sort of solution.

[Reshef] I must ask you as somebody who is based in Washington to settle a contradiction. George Bush invites Arab reporters and tells them: We will put pressure on Israel.

[Shoval] He did not say that. That translation is too liberal. He said: We will push [preceding three words in English] both sides.

[Reshef] Israel too, it seems.

[Shoval] Not that we have to be pushed, but that is what he said.

[Reshef] But James Baker later said: We will not pressure Israel, we do not want to lose the opportunity, but we will not exert pressure. Is that coordinated or are there differences in nuance.

[Shoval] There might be differences in nuance. We certainly do not have to be pushed into peace. We have proved that. Mr. Baker came and said that there is no pressure and there will be no pressure. I believe that Mr. Baker understands that in order to succeed he has to cooperate with all the elements in the region.

[Reshef] But I would like to ask you if it is not true that in actual fact there is not de facto pressure: if we go back to the very sharp reaction to your remarks or the reading out of the telephone number of the White House or approving only a $650 million military grant and not what we asked for, while attaching a restriction that we will not put forward another request before September.

[Shoval] No, I suggest that we see things in the right light. A week and a half or two weeks ago the U.S. Administration informed us that it will not be able to approve for the State of Israel a single dollar within the framework of Operation Desert Storm's emergency aid. A few days later they approved $650 million for us. I suggest that we do not downplay that. It is not an Israeli concession. On the contrary. I do not believe it is pressure, I believe it is simple policy.

[Reshef] Mr. Shoval, nobody knows better than you that the White House did not like your expression: We demand consideration as quickly as possible for the guarantee of the $400 million loan. I am interested in knowing what James Baker told you when he stopped in front of you on Monday night?

[Shoval] Mr. Baker and the Israeli ambassador are two very experienced people in politics and diplomacy and both understand that just as there sometimes is deliberate anger, there is later a display of deliberate fondness. It is all part of the game, and whoever does not understand that should occupy himself with something else.

[Reshef] But you did not tell us what he said.

[Shoval] He said that he would like to continue working with me on the continued relations between the two countries. We have been doing that for several weeks.

[Reshef] Did that reprimand harm your ability to function there?

[Shoval] Certainly not. I am happy to say that Israeli politicians also understood that it was not something personal, and I believe that ties between the two countries are now very normal.

[Reshef] I read all the commentaries, as you must have done, which said that Mr. Shoval is not the type to trip up, he in fact expressed the prime minister's opinion.

[Shoval] I said what I said. I did not receive any instructions about it, and let us put what I said and what was published in the right light, and let us leave the rest to memories.

[Reshef] Another report was a cable you sent from Washington which said: Folks, we have to prepare a plan for James Baker's arrival. Was there such a cable?

[Shoval] I will not say whether there was such a cable or not, I will only say that we will seriously consider reporting directly to the media in the future, it might save time.

[Reshef] You can do it simultaneously, there is no need to go straight to the media. You go back to Washington tomorrow?

[Shoval] Yes.

[Reshef] Then, good luck, and thank you.

Arens Discusses POW Deal, Peace Prospects

TA1403074391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0605 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Arye Golan—"recorded an hour ago"]

[Text] [Golan] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, good morning.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Golan] Would you please first comment on this morning's ABC-TV report that Iran has notified Baker that it would be willing to help secure the release of the American hostages held by Shiites in Lebanon in return for the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd, who was abducted by Israel from his south Lebanese village. Would we accept such a deal if it did not include our captured men as well?

[Arens] I believe it would not be wise for me to comment on this. We do not know how true this report is. The issue of our POW's and MIA's is so important and sensitive that it would not be wise to say anything that could hamper the process. We are continuing our efforts to get our boys back home. If the report does contain some hint that the Iranians are willing to be involved in the process of securing the release of MIA's and POW's, then it is a good sign.

[Golan] You met with Secretary of State James Baker. Both you and Mr. Shamir yesterday said that Secretary Baker did not raise any detailed political offers. At the same time, there are two U.S. principles, as outlined by President Bush: territory for peace and legitimate political rights for the Palestinians. Do you believe that peace can be attained on the basis of these two principles?

[Arens] I believe we should draw a distinction between the steps we must take to set the peace process in motion and the shape of the framework of the peace we should eventually attain. All our efforts over the past two years were directed at starting the peace process, at talks without preconditions. In fact, there was no reference in them to the framework of the peace arrangement, if and when we get to it. We hear different principles from different people—some of them American—about what should constitute the basis of the peace agreement, once we get to it. I believe, however, that it is our efforts to start the peace process that are important, and today as well the main effort focuses around our proposals, known as the Israeli Government peace initiative of May 1989.

[Golan] Concerning the framework: There has been talk about a regional conference under the auspices of the United States and the USSR, if it renews diplomatic ties with us. Do you find it appropriate that the United States should take a more active role?

[Arens] We are currently talking—we have all begun to talk—about two of the four points in the Israeli peace initiative: One deals with contacts toward peace negotiations with the Arab countries which declared a state of war with Israel. This was the second point in the peace initiative. People tended to overlook it, simply because it was inconvenient or because the Arab countries were not willing to launch contacts. It is said that there is hope that at least some of the Arab countries will be willing to pursue that second point. The other issue is the fourth point: talks with the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I hope that we will eventually deal with the first point and complete the process of normalization of our relations with Egypt, as well as with the third point: the rehabilitation of the refugees in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, we have started talking about what will probably become the fifth point of the Israeli peace initiative: an agreement between the weapons producers of the world to reduce and limit arms exports to the Middle East.

[Golan] Are you referring to conventional weapons as well?

[Arens] I am speaking primarily about conventional weapons. This is the main problem. The Iraqi war machine consisted primarily of conventional weapons, and we are all aware of the enormous inventory of conventional weapons that is stationed in the Middle East and which comes from the arms producers of the world in the East and West.

[Golan] Let us return to the double track: the political process with the Arab world and steps to solve the Palestinian problem at the same time. Do you believe that by accepting this double-track idea, the United States dropped the priority it had given the Palestinian problem?

[Arens] I do not think they dropped anything. I believe there is recognition here of something we have been saying and trying to convince them of for a long time: that the two must be done in parallel; that it is hard to even conceive of the possibility of reaching an understanding with the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria

and Gaza if we do not, at the same time, reach an understanding with the Arab countries.

[Golan] Is an Israeli gesture to be expected? The issue was raised when Baker was here. Will you make any kind of gesture toward the Arabs of the territories in terms of administrative detentions or reopening universities in order to create a better atmosphere and in return for similar or other steps by the Arab countries?

[Arens] I have explained to Secretary of State Baker that this is in no way a question of gestures. We are the first to want to take the steps you mentioned. Taking them, however, depends on a decline in violence and not, God forbid, an escalation in violence. If we open more universities—and we are interested in doing that—we do not want this to be accompanied by an escalation of violence, because if is the case, we will have to take even harsher steps.

[Golan] Meaning that terminating violence is a precondition for Israeli gestures?

[Arens] I do not think it should be put this way, as a precondition. At the same time, the appropriate climate must be created. The stand of the U.S. Administration is also of importance here. We want to be sure that our steps reduce and do not increase the violence; after all, no one wants to have more violence on his hands.

[Golan] Minister Arens, we talk of violence, we see the hostility around us: the knives and the dancing on the rooftops while Scuds were falling here. Do you believe that the two nations—Israeli and Palestinian—can live together? Is it good for us?

[Arens] I believe we have no choice. Sometimes it is really hard to be optimistic, when we witness over and over again the bitter truth that the Arab populations—not only in the territories but also recently in Iraq, for example—contain such a great number of fanatic extremists for whom human life has no value, who are not interested in peace at all. We hope, however, that the majority is of a different opinion.

[Golan] Still, whenever there is a problem we close the territories and ban the Arabs from entering Israel. This may guarantee temporary calm, but you cannot use it for a long period of time.

[Arens] Look, thousands of laborers from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip come to work every morning in the Israeli marketplace. I believe that whoever is familiar with the reality of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el knows that we have no way of separating the Jews from the Arabs; whoever tries to advance such ideas is simply not in touch with reality. This is true whether about those who favor withdrawal from the territories, believing that this would leave a tiny Israel with Jews only and no Arabs, and those who support the infamous notion of deporting the Arabs.

[Golan] Mr. Defense Minister, it seems that the next U.S. step in our region will be a visit by the President. If President Bush visits here and again raises his ideas about withdrawal, territory for peace, and legitimate political rights for the Palestinians, what will be your reply?

[Arens] Look, we spent hours in talks with the secretary of state. As is well known, in the United States, Cabinet members speak on behalf of the President; they do not present their personal views. I believe that the talks with Secretary Baker were held in a good atmosphere and were very constructive. We all feel that a certain degree of progress was made, and there is no doubt in my mind that when President Bush comes to Israel—and he will be a very welcome guest here—we will hold talks with him, too. I believe that his visit will contribute to promoting peace.

[Golan] Secretary Baker, however, came here to get a sense of the mood and to exchange views. It will be very hard to refuse to the U.S. President, especially this one, after his great victory in the Gulf.

[Arens] I do not believe that the President will come here to negotiate with us. He has said that the negotiations must be held between the sides, between Jews and Arabs.

[Golan] Do you foresee success for such negotiations? Is peace on the horizon?

[Arens] It is on the horizon, but unfortunately the horizon is quite far away. It takes a lot of time. As you can see, this war with Iraq was needed to make some headway, to make Arab countries realize that they must begin contacts with Israel. This is the Middle East. I believe that we are used to this uneasy reality.

[Golan] Mr. Defense Minister, thank you very much and good morning.

[Arens] Good morning.

Military Control Center Accepted 'in Principle'

TA1403065391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 91 pp A1, 4

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, the Arab affairs correspondent, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] The United States and Israel have in principle accepted the Soviet proposal to set up a military control center for the Middle East countries which would be permanently manned by representatives from Israel and the Arab countries and observers from the two superpowers.

The proposal will be discussed in the talks U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will begin today in Moscow upon the end of his tour of the Middle East. The proposal is designed to build confidence between the sides in the region and to prevent military misunderstandings. The proposal, submitted by the Soviets to the State Department and the Israeli Foreign Ministry, elicited positive responses. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu: No Comment on Proposal

TA1403084791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Goni Mardor and 'Eran Ben-Porat—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mardor] Mr. Netanyahu, this morning HA'ARETZ carries a front-page report saying that the United States and Israel accepted a Soviet proposal to set up a military control center in the Middle East to prevent misunderstandings on the defense level. Are you familiar with this?

[Netanyahu] We have always wanted to reduce the risks of war, and we have a series of ideas, but I would not like to comment on this.

[Ben-Porat] We are hearing reports about rapprochement between Israel and Albania, perhaps as a result of Israel's stand during the Gulf war. Do we know about an inclination toward establishing relations with the Albanians?

[Netanyahu] Yes. For the past several months we have been receiving signs that Albanian representatives around the world would like to see a change in the Albanian attitude toward Israel and a recognition of Israel. I must say that if Albania is changing, if Mongolia is changing—we have signs from there as well; we have signs from various places around the world that were absolutely closed and linked by a common wall of hostility against us which now seems to be crumbling—it seems to me that the time has come for the walls of hostility to fall in the Arab world as well. There are certainly no preconditions here; no one is demanding them. We are calling for a simple and elementary thing in relations between countries: mutual recognition. This is not something to be discussed, nor is it an issue for negotiations. This is the basic premise for relations between countries. It is time that the Arabs accept it.

[Mardor] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Sinyurah Comments on Reported Abu-Sharif Plan

TA1303084291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Here is a first reaction from the territories to Bassam Abu-Sharif's statement in London on concessions the PLO is prepared to make in negotiations with Israel.

Hanna Sinyurah, one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders in the territories, told our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari that the only body authorized to make declarations on behalf of the PLO is the Palestine National Council. As for Bassam Abu-Sharif's statement in London, Sinyurah said that at this point anything Abu-Sharif says is mere speculation. Although Abu-Sharif is an important man, his remarks may only be a statement to the press. Sinyurah added that it is too early to tell the position of the inhabitants of the territories on this matter.

Public Opinion Polls on Postwar Situation, Peace

Many See Opportunity for Peace

TA0803094791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 91 p 1

[Dahaf Institute poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah; answers are given in percentages]

[Text] Question: Do you think that the Gulf war offers an opportunity for peace settlements between Israel, its neighbors, and the Palestinians?
Yes: 71; No: 28.

Question: Should Israel insist on conducting direct negotiations with all the elements?
Yes: 72; No: 27.

Question: Is it necessary to come up with a new political initiative or revive the earlier peace initiative?
New: 58; Existing: 37.

Question: Should negotiations with Syria be launched without preconditions?
Yes: 83; No: 16.

The telephone survey included 719 individuals who constitute a representative cross section. It was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week [5 and 6 March].

Nation Split on Land for Peace

TA1103100391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Mar 91 p 1

[Public opinion poll commissioned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT and conducted by Dahaf Institute on 7 and 10 March; answers given in percentages]

[Text] Question: Is the principle of "territories for peace" acceptable to you?
Acceptable: 49
Unacceptable: 49

Question: If we face the need to decide on the future of the territories in accordance with the above principle, should it be done by referendum or by a Cabinet resolution?
Referendum: 75
Cabinet: 24

The above telephone survey questioned 506 interviewees, representing a sample of the Jewish population. It was conducted last Thursday [7 March] and this Sunday [10 March].

Netanyahu Urges Iraqi Disarmament, Reparations

TA1303174191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Israel is demanding that Iraq dismantle its missiles, that an apparatus be set up to make sure there is no new aggression, and that Iraq pay reparations for war damage. During his visit here, James Baker promised that the United States would act to implement those aims. This was disclosed in the Knesset by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] Israel's claims against Iraq were also raised in the talks with Secretary Baker. We demanded the dismantling of Iraq's missiles and its offensive deployment. We demanded a supervisory apparatus to insure that there will be no new aggression, and we demanded that Israel receive reparations from Iraq for war damages it caused. We received firm promises from Secretary Baker that the United States is taking action to assure the implementation of those aims. Our main aim, however, in our contacts with the United States is to try to achieve—through cooperation and ongoing consultations—a breakthrough based on our peace initiative. To all those who speak against that plan, to those who say it is outdated, that a new initiative is required, I ask why. I am not opposed to new ideas. On the contrary, but I believe that what are needed first of all are right ideas. Everything we claimed before the war, and to which many around the world were opposed, was proved correct. [end recording]

Shu'fat Curfew Lifted; Police Presence Continues

TA1303093591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The curfew on the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem has been lifted. It was imposed two days ago several hours before Secretary Baker's arrival in Israel because of disturbances in the camp.

An increased police presence can still be found in East Jerusalem, and it will continue in the next few days.

Arabs Allowed Entry Into Jerusalem

TA1303102391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] At the end of Secretary Baker's visit, there is no longer a ban on Arabs in the territories entering Jerusalem. The ban had been imposed immediately after the murder of four women in the capital three days ago.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum adds that stone-throwing youngsters were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets in the village of Jabal al-Mukabar in East Jerusalem. Three stone-throwers were arrested.

Entry Ban Reimposed 14 Mar

TA1403052391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The entry of Arab residents of the territories into Jerusalem will be prohibited beginning this morning. The police lifted the restrictions imposed after the murder of four women in Qiryat Yovel, Jerusalem, but they decided to prevent Arabs from the territories entering the capital, at least until the beginning of next week.

Spain's Fernandez-Ordonez Arrives for Visit 12 Mar

Briefed by Levi on Baker Talks

TA1203201391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1945 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Report by Gil Litman]

[Excerpts] Because of the U.S. secretary of state's visit, we almost forgot to report on another visitor, Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who arrived in Israel tonight. At the moment, he is holding a working dinner with Foreign Minister David Levi. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports from the King David Hotel in Jerusalem: [passage omitted]

In the course of the dinner, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez expressed appreciation for Israel's restraint during the Gulf war. He has just arrived from Egypt, where he met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Fernandez-Ordonez told David Levi that since the Gulf war, the Arab countries appear to be showing a more pragmatic attitude toward Israel.

Foreign Minister David Levi informed the Spanish visitor about the content of his talks with Baker. Baker told Minister Levi that the United States is taking action toward passing a Security Council resolution that will be instrumental in the elimination of the missile launchers and chemical weapons still remaining in Iraq, and in continuing sanctions against Iraq.

In the meeting with his Spanish counterpart, the Israeli foreign minister referred to Syria: I hope the allies, including Spain, will dissuade Syria against launching any kind of adventure against Israel. Levi added that at present, Syria is clinching extensive arms deals with money it had received from Saudi Arabia and other countries in compensation for its involvement and stand in the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Says Mideast Dialogue Should Start

TA1303173691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1640 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Report by Gil Litman outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem]

[Text] The meeting between Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and the prime minister lasted 50 minutes, and then the Spanish foreign minister left for the president's residence. When I asked Mr. Fernandez-Ordonez to sum up his meeting with Mr. Shamir, he said: The prime minister and I discussed bilateral relations and the Spanish prime minister's visit to Israel in the coming year.

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording, in English] I expect the visit could be organized during this year. We discussed the international situation, the dialogue with the Arab countries and the Palestinian people. He is an old friend of ours and it was a nice meeting. [end recording]

[Litman translates and continues] What role can Spain play in the Arab-Israeli conflict, I asked the Spanish foreign minister. He replied: We want to help and we are sending Israel and the Arabs a message.

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording, in English] We think it is very important to start the dialogue now and to be pragmatic. Everybody in the international community is waiting for something, and I think there is a better mood in the region, and maybe it is a good moment to take advantage of this situation to start all the possible dialogues. [end recording]

[Reporting on the Shamir-Fernandez-Ordonez meeting, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 13 March cites Prime Minister Shamir as saying: "It was encouraging to hear the U.S. secretary's remarks about the Arab countries' new thinking regarding their relations with Israel." According to the report, "Shamir believed it is time to make the maximum effort to promote peace. He noted with satisfaction that the parallel-tracks concept proposed by Israel is being adopted by the Americans.

["Replying to the Spanish guest's question about the possibility of alleviating the condition of the territories residents, Shamir said that if the intifadah ceases, it will be possible to improve their living conditions within two or three weeks."]

Meets Palestinian Leaders

LD1303160991 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The pacification of the Middle East concerns the Spanish Government. Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez is in Israel. At this moment he is meeting with Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories. He will inform them of Spain's support for a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This meeting precedes the one that Fernandez-Ordonez will have this afternoon with the Israeli prime minister and president. Francisco Ojeda reports from Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Ojeda] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez sees possibilities for peace during his first meeting in Israel. Last night he had a working dinner with his Israeli counterpart, David Levi, and is now meeting a group of Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories. The group includes the nationalist, Faysal al-Husayni, and the mayor of Bethlehem.

[Fernandez-Ordonez] I would be very cautious about expressing any optimism. But I do believe that things are moving or that there is a certain awareness of the need to tackle certain problems. We think that there is still a very important problem, and that is Israel's relationship with the Arab countries that are still at war with Israel. This is a very important part of the dialogue, because it affects Israel's security. For me, the problem very clearly has the two sides. One can not be separated from the other.

[Ojeda] Following the meeting with the Palestinian leaders, being held now in the Spanish consulate in the Arab part of Jerusalem, Fernandez-Ordonez is scheduled to have separate meetings with Prime Minister Shamir, President Herzog, and Shim'on Peres who is leader of the opposition. [end recording]

Madrid Radio Reports Meetings

LD1303204291 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] [Announcer] The need to immediately begin a peace dialogue between Arabs and Israelis is guiding the steps being taken by the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez. The minister, who is in Jerusalem today, has had intensive talks with representatives of the parties in conflict in order to promote the opening up of negotiations leading to peace in the Middle East. A report on this from our special correspondent in Jerusalem, Francisco Ojeda:

[Ojeda] The Spanish minister of foreign affairs, Francisco-Ordonez, has had talks with Israeli leaders and Palestinian representatives. He notices a better atmosphere as regards Israel and believes that it is a good opportunity for peace, although the solution is not easy:

[Begin recording] [Fernandez-Ordonez] I have said that I dare not speak about optimism. I have simply noted a number of things which are, as I have said, a better atmosphere in general and an agreement that this would be an appropriate time to begin a dialogue. I would not venture to make any value judgement at this time, but I would like the situation in the occupied territories to improve quickly and this is what I conveyed, naturally, to the Israeli authorities. [end recording]

[Ojeda] The visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Baker has served to make clear the complexity of the problem, and the Spanish foreign minister says that he is in favor of the twin-track policy toward peace, that is, parallel talks with Arab and Palestinian neighbors. The minister met a group of leaders from the occupied territories who explained to him the difficult situation created by the curfew applied by the Israeli Army. They handed him a list of names of those leaders imprisoned

without trial. Fernandez-Ordonez spoke about them to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Sees Better Dialogue Attitude

LD1303234191 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Our first item focuses on the Middle East and on the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem, a solution to which Spain has also directed its diplomatic efforts through its foreign minister. Indeed, Spain is very interested in the peace process in the Middle East. Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who, as you know, is now visiting Jerusalem, has had meetings with both members of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian leaders. Fernandez-Ordonez has noted a certain improvement in the attitude toward dialogue on both sides. The minister has also announced that Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will visit Israel this year. A report on this from our special correspondent in Jerusalem, Paco Ojeda:

[Begin recording] [Ojeda] Following his meetings with the principal authorities of the Israeli State and a meeting at the Spanish consulate in Jerusalem with Palestinian Leaders, Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez does not venture to make any optimistic or pessimistic judgment about the possibilities of peace:

[Fernandez-Ordonez] Nothing more [than this]—I note that there is an atmosphere which has improved, an attitude which is more favorable to dialogue and to peace and a feeling that this is an opportunity of which advantage must be taken. Foreseeably, the Spanish prime minister will visit Israel this year.

[Ojeda] At his meeting with the leaders from the occupied territories, the foreign minister was very clear about Spain's stance as regards the Palestinian people. Spain has strong historic ties with the Arab world, but also with the Jewish world, and a double anniversary is about to be marked: the fifth centenary of the discovery of America and of the expulsion of the Jews. The minister is in Tel Aviv, where he has had a meeting with the leader of the Labor opposition, Shim'on Peres. Tomorrow he will set off back to Madrid after a meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. [end recording]

More on Talk With Palestinians

TA1403103691 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Mar 91 p A2

[Report by Hanan Shal'in and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Spanish minister of foreign affairs, conferred yesterday with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni at the Spanish Consulate in East Jerusalem. The seven-member delegation included Dr. Riyad al-Maliki and Ghassan al-Khatib, who did not show up for the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians reiterated their known demands and reaffirmed that the PLO is their sole representative. They agreed with the Spanish minister's assertion that there can be no peace without Israel or the PLO.

The Palestinian notables attending the meeting voiced their resentment over Bassam Abu-Sharif's statement in London yesterday that the PLO is willing to make concessions on part of the territories. Faysal al-Husayni said this statement was Abu-Sharif's private initiative and not an authoritative PLO plan.

[A report by Jon Immanuel and news agencies on page 1 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 14 March adds: "Ghassan al-Khatib, who alone among Palestinian intellectuals has publicly called for a more open post-war approach by Palestinians, said there was nothing new in Abu-Sharif's comments. 'The borders should be negotiable. They could move to the east or the west. Sometimes when you want to design borders there are technical differences'."]

Sharon Returns as Aliyah Committee Chairman

TA1303113391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon will return to his position as chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister asked Minister Sharon to withdraw his resignation, and the latter complied with the prime minister's request.

Levi Leaves for Talks in Germany 13 Mar

TA1303101991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has left for talks in Germany. He will confer with his counterpart Genscher, with Chancellor Kohl, and with President von Weizsaecker.

Cancels Paris Visit

TA1403060491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Excerpt] While everybody else is pushing 'Arafat aside, the French are even willing to host him in Paris. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' remarks to that effect last week have resulted in the postponement of an official visit Foreign Minister David Levi was about to make to Paris. Here is our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts:

Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to France was postponed after the preparations for it were concluded, but before it was officially made public. Officially, the visit

was postponed due to scheduling problems. In fact, knowledgeable sources said, the foreign minister chose not to visit France at this time after Roland Dumas, in an interview to LE MONDE last Monday [11 March], declared his willingness to host Yasir 'Arafat in Paris.

France is the largest European country and only member of the coalition that has not held a meeting with a high-level Israeli official since the war ended, despite the fact that it had expressed interest in such a meeting. Diplomatic circles in Paris expressed their regret over the cancellation of Levi's visit, during which he was supposed to meet with President Mitterrand. The circles noted that it is regrettable because a positive change has been noted this week in France's positions toward Israel with regard to a solution to the Middle East conflict. [passage omitted]

Minister Ne'eman Plans 'Secret' Visit to USSR

TA1403101891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 91 p C1

[Report by Yehuda Sharoni]

[Excerpts] Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman will visit the Soviet Union in mid-April, mostly to discuss energy issues.

Israel has for some time been holding negotiations with the USSR on possible oil purchases. The matter was discussed by Avraham Agmon, director of the Deleq oil company, who said he was very optimistic about the success of the contacts.

During the visit, Ne'eman may also discuss questions pertaining to the Science and Technology Ministry. It is not yet clear whether he will confer with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

The visit to the Soviet Union is being kept secret. Energy Ministry officials refused to comment on the planned visit, saying this was a sensitive issue and that comments might sabotage it.

Sharon Notes Jewish Demand for Territories Housing

TA1303165291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Mr. Sharon, I would like to ask you a question which links the issue of aliyah with the political issue. James Baker, who was here this week, was very keen to hear David Levi's explanation on the many reports about all the construction being done in the territories, and he wanted Israel to provide a report on what goes on there. You, in your capacity as construction and housing minister, will be surely asked to prepare this report. What picture will it reflect?

[Sharon] First, I wonder whether the foreign minister was unable to provide an answer to such a simple question, because as the prime minister and myself announced more than once—and our statements reflect the situation—we do not direct immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Friedman] This is not the problem that bothers Baker. He is very concerned with the reports talking about 24,000 housing units already submitted for approval; 12,000 units already approved; 20 percent of the mobile homes being directed to the territories, as alleged by various Knesset members.

[Sharon] All these figures are greatly exaggerated, I am sorry to say. The information is not secret, and I report on our operations to the Knesset Finance Committee and to the Knesset, when requested. Every fact appears in plans and budget books. The published figures, I am sorry to say, are greatly exaggerated.

The one obvious thing is that as a national Jewish government, we are aware of the strategic importance of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, an importance which only grew in the wake of the recent war. Since no one ever thought Jews should not settle in these places, there is a plan to that end. At present, thank God, 105,000 Jews live in Judaea and Samaria. They get married, have children, and they need housing. In addition, since the war, there has been a greater demand by Israelis to move to Judaea and Samaria from the densely-populated areas around Tel Aviv. However, we are talking about veteran Israelis. We have never made a committment not to settle this kind of population, and we are taking precisely the steps to ensure Israel's survival and defense without harming the cause of peace in any way. These steps can only aid the cause of peace, because if Israel feels secure, its readiness to assume risks will be greater.

[Friedman] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

King Husayn Interviewed on Peace Prospects

JN1403121391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said in an interview published Wednesday [13 March] Jordan would never agree to stand in for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in peace talks with Israel.

"Jordan has a very important part in any Arab-Israeli peace process," King Husayn told the New York Times. "But I'm saying at the same time that Jordan should not be, cannot be, will not be a substitute for the Palestinians themselves as the major aggrieved party of the arab side in a process that leads to peace."

"If it is the choice of the Palestinians at some time in the future to ask Jordan to join them," the King added, "then they would certainly have the position of prominence in any process that seeks a comprehensive peace to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli problem."

Asked who was authorised to speak for, and should represent, the Palestinians, the King replied: "The Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Commenting on peace efforts, the King said the time ahead would be one of "dialogue and soul-searching," an occasion for "creative solutions." He said that after the Gulf war there was a "window of opportunity" that would probably last only a short time.

In the interview, half of which was devoted to Jordan's stance in the Gulf war and half to prospects for peace in its wake, the King said that despite accusing the American-led coalition of trying to destroy Iraq in a speech he gave in early February after the war was well under way, Jordan had remained neutral during the conflict and had never abandoned its principled stand of searching for a peaceful resolution of the problem between Iraq and Kuwait. "We did not take sides; I took the side of peace," the King said.

The King said that his speech, delivered after considerable destruction had occurred inside Iraq, "reflected my deep concern about stopping the killing of the Iraqi people." Moreover, he added, it was "addressed to the Arab and Muslim world" and represented an appeal to them to stop the destruction.

The King also said that Jordan had abided by the United Nations embargo on Iraq. Photographs of Jordanian arms and ammunition crates taken at Iraqi posts by allied soldiers were ammunition that had been shipped through Saudi Arabia in 1982 during the Iran-Iraq war, the King said. Jordan had not provided such weapons or ammunition to Iraq for years, he said.

He refused to "apologise" to Saudi Arabia for Jordan's stance during the war, as Prince Bandar, Riyadh's ambassador to Washington, has demanded. "If apologies are demanded, they might be demanded equally strongly by us, if not more," the King said.

But signalling his desire to improve relations with the Gulf states, he added: "Time will show them that we were not against them, that they were very much in error in their attitudes towards this country and its leadership. I am confident that the misunderstandings between us can be rectified in the time ahead." Above all, the King stressed, he considered that the war was a chapter closed and that it was essential now to move on.

The King said he had not spoken or seen President Saddam Husayn for weeks.

Turning to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace mission, the King declined to express disappointment that Mr. Baker chose not to come to Amman on his tour. "That was the secretary's choice," he said. "If he didn't come at this point, we can't do much about it." Rather, the King said, he felt confident that the United States and Jordan would soon stop "signaling and hooting at each other like ships across a channel in a fog."

He confirmed that he sent a letter to President Bush after the Gulf war. But he declined to comment on its contents.

The King declined to endorse any specific peace proposal. Any serious approach had to be considered, he stressed. But, he insisted, any solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict had to be based on the return of occupied territory by Israel for peace with the Arabs, a principle endorsed by the United Nations and by President Bush in a recent speech, but rejected by Israel's government.

King Husayn also expressed some scepticism of Mr. Baker's suggestion that Middle East peace be tackled by solving Israel's conflict with Arab states, on the one hand, and resolving the Palestinian-Israeli problem on the other. "You can't resolve one without the other," the King said.

Al-Masri Welcomes Bush's Remarks to Congress

NC1303192791 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 13 Mar (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the accelarating pace of events since the end of the Gulf war makes it hard to grasp all their details. He noted that there has been a flurry of political and diplomatic activity, with various quarters proposing initiatives and floating new ideas and plans. Unfortunately, though, joint Arab action and Arab input have been conspicuously absent, with most initiatives coming from outside the region, al-Masri said.

In a statement to the House of Representatives today, the minister said that in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the focus of international efforts are the search for a new regional security system and a solution to the Palestinian problem. As was the case during the Gulf crisis, Jordan remains pivotal to all the political and diplomatic

moves, al-Masri said. With potentially increased international efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem, the minister added, we anticipate an even greater interest in Jordan, given the fact that it is a key player in the issue, and that its political leadership has displayed an adherence to principles, dialogue, and international legitimacy.

Al-Masri said the crisis has brought to the fore a cohesion between the people and the leadership. Jordan, he asserted, has assumed its full responsibilities before God, history, the Arab nation, and the brotherly people of Iraq.

Al-Masri ranked among the important recent developments George Bush's address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, in which the U.S. President pointed out the need to promote a solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula. Although the President failed to specify the framework for implementing these two resolutions, which we think are best pursued at an international conference, we welcome this U.S. commitment, and view it as a positive step on the road to a solution of the Palestinian problem and observance of international legitimacy, and an important step toward an overall, just, and permanent regional settlement. As is known, we have always advocated this line for a settlement, the foreign minister noted.

We believe that no time should be wasted before the Palestinian question is addressed, in case new factors get in the way.

He recalled the recent visit to Jordan by the European troika delegation, which was preceded by a visit by Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark, and followed by Douglas Hogg, Britain's state minister for the Middle East. Their discussions centered on regional cooperation and a solution to the Palestinian issue, and Jordan's contribution to that effort, al-Masri said.

The minister said it is extremely unfortunate that the United States should still be opposed to the international conference notion, favoring instead bilateral contacts between concerned parties and wanting the Arab-Israeli dispute to be tackled separately from the Palestinian question. He also noted with regret that the United States continues to refuse to deal with the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative, a line certainly supported by Israel, and shared by many European and Arab countries.

Al-Masri said that at the moment, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the American voice is high and influential. We feel from our contacts in Amman and abroad that individual countries have official policies at odds with the blocs to which they belong or even different from their true positions. The French position, for instance, may be different from that of the EC.

He added: I now wish to review before you the unchanging principles on which Jordanian policy is based, and which we emphasize to all our visitors:

1. Jordan has an important and vital role in the region. It handles this role with positiveness, clarity, and commitment. Jordan will continue to do its part for its primary cause, the Palestinian issue, and for its Arab brothers with the utmost honesty, honor, and openness.

2. It is imperative to attain a solution of the Palestinian issue as soon as possible and in accordance with international legitimacy on the basis of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and on the basis of exchanging land for peace. This must be done with the same degree of determination which the international community showed toward the Gulf crisis.

3. The Palestinians must participate in resolving their own issue. Palestinian representation comes only through the PLO, which is the party that will determine the way in which it will participate in the solution. Jordan will not be a substitute for the PLO.

4. An international conference remains the ideal conduit for resolving the Palestinian issue with the participation of all concerned parties and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The implementation of international legitimacy necessarily needs an international conduit to carry it out. The accord shown by the five permanent members during the past two years will be an effective factor in bolstering the international conference and enabling it to attain its desired objectives. The United States and the countries allied with it during the Gulf crisis used to reject any direct dialogue between the concerned parties and insisted upon acting through the UN Security Council and on primarily implementing international legitimacy. They now refuse to pursue the same method with regard to the Palestinian issue and insist primarily on a direct dialogue between the concerned parties.

5. We believe that any regional security and cooperation system must proceed from the region itself. It must also not come through axial groupings. For this reason, we are calling on the Arab brothers to heal wounds, close ranks, learn from the errors of the past, and look toward building a better future for our nation.

Regardless of the sharpness of the mutual accusations, acute divisions, and inflamed passions among Arab parties, they will not be so deep as to prevent collective Arab action and the building of a new Arab system, whose foundation will rest on the Arab people's will and whose goals will be liberating Arab decisionmaking and modernizing the pan-Arab structure.

Prince Hasan Welcomes U.S. Statements on Peace

NC1303230091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Crown Prince His Highness Prince Hasan has stated that Jordan welcomes the U.S. statements calling

for a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He expressed the hope that international legitimacy will be applied by giving the United Nations an effective role to play and by tackling the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

This statement came in television interviews his highness granted yesterday to Japan's NHK, Britain's ITN, and the U.S. Christian Science [as heard] television networks. His highness noted Jordan welcomes the forthcoming visit to the region by the recently appointed personal envoy of the UN secretary general for Middle East affairs.

Commenting on the calls made by recent European visitors to the region for a return to the formula of the international conference for peace in the region, his highness said that he agrees totally with the views of the European visitors, including the British secretary of state and the European troika, that an international conference requires a great deal of preparation and cannot be ruled out.

His highness noted that he observed with interest that the eight Arab countries that met in Damascus referred to the international conference as a suitable mechanism, but added that it is clear that such a conference must be attended by all parties concerned, especially the Palestinians.

Decrease in Refugees From Iraq, Kuwait Reported

NC1003154591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said in a press release Saturday [9 March] that it had arranged the repatriation of 3,889 foreign residents of Iraq and Kuwait in need of international assistance between Feb. 28 and March 6 1991.

The repatriates included Egyptians, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Bangladeshis, Yemenis and other nationalities, the release said.

It said that since the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf, the flow of third world country nationals seeking repatriation had shown a considerable decrease but there is not enough data on the number of persons believed still in Iraq and Kuwait or on the percentage, among them, of those who might wish to return to their home countries.

As regards the flow of refugees, no clear trends have yet emerged, but IOM will continue to meet its commitment under the regional humanitarian plan of action to handle transportation of people, including inland transport.

The release said that IOM would consequently maintain its field structure, albeit at appropriately adapted staff strength, and would monitor potential needs and operational requirements both from headquarters and in the field.

All in all IOM has assisted a total of 28,463 people to return to their countries of origin since the outbreak of the crisis, the release added.

IOM, which has its offices at 'Amra Hotel in Amman, said that by March 6 it had confirmed pledges of financial funds to cover its operation in the region totalling $16.7 million, of which $9.3 million had been received.

Red Crescent Team Leaves for Baghdad 12 Mar

NC1303192991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A team from the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) led by the society's Vice President Muhammad Mutlaq al-Hadid left for Baghdad Tuesday to discuss relief operations and the Iraqi people's needs with Ibrahim al-Nuri, head of the Iraqi National Red Crescent Society, and other officials.

Consultations on facilitating and coordinating the arrival of relief supplies with the Iraqi society will be discussed by Mr. al-Hadid and his group who are expected to tour a number of Iraqi society's relief centres.

Mr. al-Hadid's visit follows the arrival in Baghdad Tuesday of 115 tonnes of medicines and children food from JNRCS.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Tuesday sent 33 trucks laden with 600 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq from Madaba, South of Amman. It was announced Tuesday that a convoy of trucks carrying 50 tonnes of food supplies left for Baghdad. The gift was raised in Madaba district by local organisations.

Car Bomb Kills Al-Wa'd Party Leader's Driver

NC1203232591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] The chauffeur of Elie Hubayqah, leader of the al-Wa'd Party and minister of state in the cabinet of 'Umar Karami, was killed in Beirut today. According to eyewitnesses, the chauffeur was sitting in a Mercedes parked near one of the al-Wa'd Party offices when the car was blown up by a remote-control bomb.

Al-Ta'if Accord To Be Implemented on Schedule

NC1303113691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has declared that the government will implement the al-Ta'if agreement according to its timetable and it will not be subject to arguments by anyone. He said: This is the will of the people and we are committed to carrying it out through understanding and dialogue without any violence because violence in Lebanon has ended for good.

During his reception of a delegation representing the doctors association, Prime Minister Karami said: The support we have encourages us to proceed with the salvation process and to take advantage of the real chance available to save Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders. The important thing is for us to proceed as quickly as possible so as to keep abreast of the fast-breaking regional and international developments.

Italian Foreign Minister Meets Al-Hirawi 11 Mar

NC1103153591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis this afternoon. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended the meeting.

Later, President al-Hirawi gave a lunch attended by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Lebanese Ambassador to Italy Staff Major General Muhammad al-Haj, the Italian ambassador to Lebanon, Central Bank Governor Michel al-Khuri, the delegation accompanying the Italian Foreign Minister, and a number of high- ranking Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials.

The Italian foreign minister arrived at Beirut airport this afternoon. He held a preliminary round of talks with Minister Buwayz at the Bustrus palace before moving to the presidential residence.

At the end of his official visit to Beirut this evening, the Italian foreign minister will hold a news conference.

Holds Talks With Leaders

91P20257A Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] The prospects for peace in the Middle East, in particular a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, are always the themes of the Italian foreign minister in the region. Today de Michelis was in Beirut and then in Damascus:

[Correspondent Paolo Giani from Lebanon] Full Italian support for the reconstruction of Lebanon and for the pragmatic Lebanese path for a return to normalcy which is on track—this was de Michelis' clear message given in the course of his meeting with Lebanese leaders during the third stop in his postcrisis trip to the Middle East. De Michelis arrived from Riyadh, the first Western minister to visit in six years. In Beirut he met with President of the Republic al-Harawi, Prime Minister Karami, and Foreign Minister Buwayz. 'Awn's disappearance from the scene is pushing Lebanon toward the progressive implementation of the al-Ta'if accord, which by now has been incorporated into the national legislation through a parliamentary vote. The government is moving in this direction with the support of and under the direction of Syria.

Referring to Craxi's next visit as Perez de Cuellar's representative, de Michelis mentioned the fields of electricity, telecommunications, health, and culture as the cornerstores of Italian support for Lebanon in the framework of a new accord on cooperation that will be underwritten. On their part, the Lebanese leaders have asked for the support of the international community, and of Italy in particular, for a solution to delicate problems, first among which is the application of UN resolution 425 for a return to normalcy in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese problem is a piece of the puzzle which comes up in the complex picture of the Middle East following the war, and De Michelis did not conceal a certain optimism. It is a problem which perhaps could be resolved even before the Palestinian question, as de Michelis gathered from the meetings held in Riyadh with Baker and the more important Arab countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1103170491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis left Beirut airport for Damascus at 1715 today.

In a press conference before he left, the Italian foreign minister stressed Italy's willingness to help in Lebanon's reconstruction and development in various fields. He also underlined the strength of Lebanese-Italian relations.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the Italian minister's visit was successful. He also praised bilateral relations.

Reportage on U.S. Secretary Baker's Visit

Baker Arrives in Damascus

NC1303104491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his wife arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, and the directors of the Foreign Ministry Departments of America and Protocol, Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian, and a number of the Embassy staff members.

Discusses Issues With Al-Asad

NC1303234491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2315 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation at 1700 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

Following this meeting, another meeting was held between the president and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

Discussions revolved around the peace process in the region. It was stressed that peace must be just and comprehensive and that the peace process should be given the appropriate momentum.

It was agreed that this processs should be based on UN resolutions, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It was also agreed that efforts and contacts toward this end should continue.

Discussions also touched on the situation in Lebanon. There was full agreement on the need for commitment to the letter and spirit of the Lebanese national accord document formulated in al-Ta'if.

The Gulf situation and its developments were reviewed.

The issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon and the efforts being exerted to release them were also discussed.

Presidential Spokesman on Talks

NC1403005591 Paris AFP in English 0041 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, March 14 (AFP)—President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held more than seven hours of talks here Wednesday and agreed that the Middle East peace process should be governed by United Nations resolutions, a Syrian spokesman said.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE after the discussions, which lasted more than five hours longer than expected, that Mr. al-Asad and Mr. Baker had agreed that "the peace process should be based on United Nations resolutions, notably Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," which call for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied since 1967.

The two sides, he said, "stressed the need (to set up) a just, global peace in the region" with whatever backup was necessary, and "agreed to continue efforts and contacts" to achieve this aim.

Mr. al-Asad and Mr. Baker, who had originally been scheduled to hold two hours of talks, wound up having two meetings lasting over seven hours.

A press conference by Mr. Baker and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' planned for late Wednesday was put off till Thursday morning.

Mr. Kuriyah said the two men also discussed the situation in Lebanon, where Syria has an estimated 30,000 troops. They agreed on total backing for the al-Ta'if Document, an inter-Lebanese agreement reached among the various factions in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, in October 1989 for peace in Lebanon.

Mr. al-Asad and Mr. Baker reviewed the situation in the Gulf and related matters, as well as discussing western hostages being held in Lebanon and efforts being made to free them.

Fifteen Western hostages, mostly Americans, are still being held by pro-Iranian Lebanese groups.

Mr. Baker arrived here earlier in the day from Israel on a Middle East mission to explore prospects for regional peace following the defeat of Iraq by an allied coalition—of which Syria was a part—late last month.

Mr. Baker is to leave for Moscow Thursday after meeting Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who arrived here late Wednesday.

Lebanese Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1303183491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus' western entrance by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Faris Buwayz said: We have come to fraternal Syria, as we always come when there are political issues concerning Arab affairs. He added: We have come to Damascus, the center of major decisionmaking in the Arab homeland, to hold talks with the brothers in Syria on future developments in the Arab homeland, particularly following the end of the Gulf war. He pointed to the possibility of

holding a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is currently on a visit to Damascus.

Buwayz Begins Talks With Baker

NC1403104491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Talks between Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began in Damascus at 1000 today. The talks were attended by delegations from the two countries. The Lebanese delegation included Zafir al-Hasan, acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Nasib Lahhud; Ilyas Haddad, adviser to Foreign Minister Buwayz; and (Yusuf Aspanius), director of the foreign minister's office. [passage omitted]

Baker Holds News Conference, Departs

NC1403145091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, his wife, and their delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife; the directors of the Foreign Ministry's America and Protocol Departments; Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador to Washington; and U.S. Ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian and the Embassy staff.

Faruq al-Shar' and James Baker held a news conference at Damascus International Airport prior to Baker's departure which was attended by a number of news agency, newspaper, and Arab and international television network correspondents. During the news conference al-Shar' and Baker spoke of all the issues which had been discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian officials and which are connected with the peace process in the region on the basis of UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Baker said: During my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad last night and my meeting with the foreign minister we discussed several issues, the most important of which were four basic issues. They are the same issues that I discussed earlier in my regional tour. I will discuss the same issues during my visit to Moscow today.

Baker added: These four issues are regional security in the Gulf, limiting the spread of arms, economic cooperation, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He stated that the talks also included the issues of the hostages in Lebanon, the situation in Lebanon, and the importance of implementing the al-Ta'if Agreement. He noted that the views of the two sides were in agreement on these matters.

Baker affirmed that with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict he agrees with al-Shar' on the need to search for a comprehensive and just settlement that is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He pointed out that an opportunity now exists to achieve important progress on this issue.

He said: I have felt that there is a new and, indeed, serious intention on the part of the Syrian Government to pursue an active peace process and to continue seeking to attain such an outcome with the coalition countries which worked together during Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait.

Answering a question on whether the international community will insist on implementing UN resolutions in order to avoid double standards in this respect, Baker answered: I agree with Mr. al-Shar' on what he proposed several days ago with regard to refraining from using a double standard in dealing with the United Nations and UN Security Council resolutions.

Regarding his talks with the Syrian Government on the terrorism issue and whether Syria's name will be removed from the terrorist list, Baker said: We still have some disagreement regarding this issue. We discussed this matter last night.

On the same issue, Faruq al-Shar' explained what Baker had said about the disagreement on the terrorism issue. He said the disagreement between the United States and Syria is how to define terrorism and determine who is a terrorist and who is not.

Answering a question about the new ideas being proposed by some Arab leaders on the peace process and whether he had found that the Syrian Government is seriously considering breaking the deadlock in the peace process, Baker said: The feeling to which I have already referred is that the Syrian Government agrees with the U.S. Government and other governments that an opportunity now exists that we must all exploit. I feel that Syria has an effective role to play in this process. I had the same feeling when I met in Riyadh with the ministers of eight Arab countries who had been part of the coalition in the Gulf war.

Asked about the hostages in Lebanon, al-Shar' said: We feel that the hostage issue must be resolved. We will do our utmost to help release all the hostages who are being held in Lebanon. We are not pessimistic about achieving success in this issue.

[Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic carries within its 1200 GMT newscast on 14 March a dispatch from its correspondent in Damascus about the news conference held by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The dispatch says in part: "The two officials discussed the limitation of weapons of mass destruction in the region. When Baker pointed out that Syria has received deliveries of new Scud missiles, al-Shar' replied that Israel, for its part, has numerous types of missiles and other weapons of mass destruction. Al-Shar' added that the establishment of a

just and comprehensive peace will end all these problems. He said Syria looks forward to the time when the Middle East will be free of weapons of mass destruction."]

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives With Delegation

NC1103201291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Protocol and European Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Italian ambassador in Damascus, and the Syrian charge d'affairs in Rome met him at Damascus international airport.

Talks With Al-Shar'

NC1203221091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Official talks between a Syrian Arab delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and an Italian delegation led by Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis were held before noon today.

The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to develop them in various fields. Ways to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue were also discussed, and the efforts that have been exerted to convene a UN-supervised international conference on peace in the Middle East were reviewed.

Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the directors of West Europe, Economy, and Information Departments, and the charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy in Rome. Present on the Italian side were the director of the Foreign Trade Institute, (Franco Inglisi); the economic affairs director general, (Renoro Fani Darkiravi); the political director general (Anzo Peter Biterlotti); members of De Michelis' delegation; and the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

Ministers al-Shar' and De Michelis had earlier held a closed session of talks on issues of mutual concern.

Meets With Al-Asad 12 Mar

NC1203222191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and his accompanying delegation at 1330 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Italian ambassador in Damascus. Michelis conveyed greetings from Italian President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti to the president, who in turn asked De Michelis to convey his greetings and best wishes to Italian President Cossiga and Prime Minister Andreotti.

Talks during the meeting focused on the situation in the region and the need to find just solutions to problems in this important part of the world.

Emphasis was placed on the need for international legitimacy to be applied in addressing the region's problems from a single perspective so that a just and comprehensive peace can be established.

Holds News Conference

NC1203224591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)—Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis held a news conference today at Damascus International Airport.

The Italian foreign minister said that his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' were very important and focused on the situation in the region and the need to implement the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions concerning the region's issues and problems, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

He added: We agreed on a point which we consider very important, and that is that the enforcement of UN resolutions in the case of the Gulf crisis should also be applied to the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We must cooperate to implement the UN resolutions to the same extent they were implemented to liberate Kuwait.

He noted the identity of views between Syria, as a member of the group of eight Arab countries, and the EC members on convening an international peace conference on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425 concerning southern Lebanon.

He pointed out that the danger lies in diverting attention from the need to implement the Security Council resolutions. We do not want the world's attention to be diverted from the problems confronting us, he said.

He noted that a number of points concerning European-Arab ties and issues related to Lebanon's future were discussed, and stressed his country's support for the al-Ta'if accord on Lebanon.

Expressing confidence in the (?development) of Syrian-Italian relations, he said: We want to consolidate these relations in the economic, political, and cultural spheres.

The Italian foreign minister described his talks in Syria as very fruitful and constructive. He said: Dialogue between Arabs and Europeans is very important. We must create a good atmosphere so that positive results can be achieved between Syria and Italy.

Answering reporters' questions, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: I agree with Mr. de Michelis about the implementation of UN resolutions and the use of one standard in dealing with the UN resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added: The talks Mr. de Michelis held with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials were constructive and positive. I will not add to what he said in his statement, particularly regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the implementation of the UN resolutions to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region that results in an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights.

Asked about the possibility that Israel will reject a UN resolution and refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and about the EC role in this regard, De Michelis said: The UN Security Council will meet next month to tackle the Middle East crisis, just as it met to tackle the Gulf crisis. At this series of meetings, a resolution should be adopted on a diplomatic initiative that includes the implementation of all UN resolutions on the matter.

Asked about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Syria tomorrow, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: During Mr. Baker's visit, we will discuss the same issues we discussed with the Italian foreign minister, particularly in light of U.S. President George Bush's recent statement, which included important basic principles regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. Al-Shar' stressed the need to adopt one standard toward the UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and international diplomacy in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights.

Expressing optimism over the prospects for achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the near future and for the holding of an international peace conference, Mr. de Michelis said: I believe all world states now share similar views regarding the need to adhere to international resolutions and to enforce international legitimacy. We should always work within this framework. All states are dutybound to achieve this.

Answering a question from a Western television correspondent on the possibility Israel will refuse to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and to exchange land for peace, Faruq al-Shar' said: If Israel refuses to abide by international legitimacy or to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, then it will isolate itself in the international arena; the international community, including the United States, will be on one side and Israel will be on the other.

Departs 12 Mar

NC1203222591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Europe and Protocol Departments, the Italian ambassador in Damascus, and the charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy in Rome.

Paper Assails Israeli Statements on Peace, Land

NC1103131591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Components of a Just Peace," TISHRIN says: When some positive signs of an effective political move to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region emerge, Israel renews its efforts to torpedo the current peace prospects with its antipeace positions and to weaken peace efforts through the reaffirmation of disgusting standpoints which have always been rejected and opposed. The reference here is to statements regarding adherence to the Shamir plan, which was stillborn on 14 May 1989, rejection of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, denial of the Palestinian Arab people's rights, and rejection of an international peace conference.

The paper adds: This Israeli position not only threatens to destroy the propitious atmosphere for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region but also makes the regional situation explosive once again—considering that Israel poses serious threats to its security, peace, and regional stability. Besides, Israel itself precludes the maintenance of stability and keeps the situation in a constant state of turmoil, fraught with dangers, tragedies, and calamities. There is no doubt that the repeated Israeli statements rejecting peace and UN resolutions constitute an escalation with the aim of exacerbating and exploding the regional situation. How else could one understand the repeated Israeli assertions that the Golan is an indivisible part of Israel, that Israel's position on the Golan remains unchanged, that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, that there will be no withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and similar claims that reflect the strategic Israeli plans regarding the establishment of greater Israel through aggression, expansion, and the confiscation of Arab rights?

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: It is impossible to achieve peace as long as the Zionists remain determined to maintain their aggression, expansionist drive, and rejectionist positions. The world is unanimous that the desired peace should be based on justice, right, international legitimacy, and UN resolutions.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Law Officers, Judges

LD1303155791 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Speech by President Najibullah to a meeting of law officers and judges on 12 March; place not given—recorded]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Judges, prosecutors, personnel from the detection organs, and esteemed public services employees:

I think visits, meetings, and exchanges of views between the state leadership and various sectors of society, personnel in the state organs, and organizations prepare the ground for broadening and expanding helpful work experience as well as highlighting shortcomings and defects and taking measures to improve affairs, as well as work and activities in the relevant areas. This has been transformed into a praiseworthy tradition which has produced effective results.

Esteemed friends; you may remember that I held such a meeting with you—judges and prosecutors—on 14 August 1990 and at this session we decided that such visits and meetings should continue. We are meeting again today to assess the decisions taken at this meeting and to shed light on the results. I want to hear about the developments in the country. As you continuously follow developments in the country and as formidable tasks face the organs responsible for maintainng law and order in the country, it is not necessary to discuss fully the above issues here. I will, however, briefly refer to what is directly relevant to the courts, prosecution offices, detection, and investigation organs. [passage omitted]

On the basis of Articles 116 and 121 of the Constitution, the laws on the organization and jurisdiction of courts and on the organization and jurisdiction of prosecution offices were newly implemented. Accordingly, the special courts and prosecution offices on national security are no longer in existence for the first time in our country since the transformation of 27 April. [passage omitted]

Figures show that during 1368 and 1369 [21 March 1989-20 March 1991] a number of criminal files were remitted to the relevant courts via the prosecution offices, and the courts reached decisions on them and the fate of the criminals. This demonstrates the active work of some courts and prosecution offices, judges, and prosecutors. It must be said, however, that some judges and courts, prosecutors, and personnel in detection and investigation offices did not act swiftly enough when considering these cases. There are cases where the accused's fate remained undetermined for a long time as a result of the unnecessary rejecting and remittance of files from one organ to another organ, or because judicial panels were not sent to the provinces having jurisdiction to consider cases in the provinces. This situation has a bad effect on the struggle against crime. Regarding preventive measures to get rid of crime successfully, some law courts and public prosecution offices have discharged their duties and obligations well. They have taken proper steps. Cooperation and coordination between the organs of law and order on the one hand and with other organs on the other hand has also improved relatively. Measures to protect the law and legal propaganda coordination commissions were better organized and have been further developed. There has been a qualitative improvement in the reporting system of some law courts and public prosecution offices mainly regarding military crimes and crimes against internal and external security. The work and activities of some public prosecution offices and law courts, however, especially in campaign against corruption and disorder in the administration has not been sufficient.

Despite the campaign against corruption and disorder, not only has the commission against this been ineffective, but the role of the justice and public prosecution service in the campaign to stamp out the shameful phenomenon of corruption, bribery, embezzlement, and disorder in the administration has also been ineffective and insufficient. [passage omitted]

The dispatch of judges, pubic prosecutors, and officials from the crime detection organs to areas that have recently come under state control is of fundamental importance in resolving people's legal needs and accelerating the peace process. We must be effective in preventing crime, and if crimes are committed the law should be enforced against the perpetrators. The development of the situation in the interest of the state obliges the state to urgently revive public prosecution offices, law courts, and crime detection organs in these areas and make them operative. They should educate the people in these areas so that they can learn about the benefits of the law, but it is evident that the leadership of the law courts and public prosecution services has been weak in this regard. For example, the court in Takhar Province, the nucleus of which has been set up in Khwajaghar, has not yet begun functioning. In Qandahar, for example, although there has been an improvment in the situation, judges have not yet been sent to the provincial court. Can we not resolve these problems quickly? [passage omitted]

People are worried about the appalling situation regarding food and fuel. Is it not possible to use the full force of the law against those profiteers who embark on economic sabotage and financial crimes?

On this point should we unilaterally have the right to consider mitigating circumstances such as happens in peace time without considering the plight of the people from the viewpoint of food, fuel, and the economic and financial problems facing the government and base our decisions within the framework of the provisions of the law so that those convicted of committing economic and financial crimes received the minimum punishment under the law? It is also evident that in some courts where there are similar cases—regarding the nature of

the crime and the criminal—one court decision carries the minimum punishment under the law and in another instance, a court carries the maximum punishment under the law. [passage omitted] I ask you, is this not ignoring the general interests of society? Is this not a blot on social justice? We have documents that show the prosecutors do not raise objections against injust decisions by the courts. [passage omitted]

There are facts to show that some judges try to attract support by applying the minimum punishment set under the law despite the fact that judges, in accordance with the Constitution and other laws, must be impartial. Judge for yourselves: Do you think the government measures are meant to secure social justice and for this reason judges are appointed and must be impartial? Or do they occupy such a legal position by chance? During the consideration of cases there is no room for behavior that is contrary to the Islamic shari'a and constitutional objectives. [passage omitted]

I want to say that in cases where the evil details of economic crimes are very clear and evident at open judicial sessions, the proceedings of which can be published by the mass media, the proceedings are not being passed on as public information. [passage omitted]

In addition to the above shortcomings in the work of the organs of detection and investigation, prosecution, and the courts, there are cases that lack sufficient evidence for conviction. Is it not possible for the crime detection organs who have personnel skilled in detection and with sufficient experience too, to compile and keep documents, evidence, circumstancial evidence and other materials which are very important in the detection of crime and the criminal from the very beginning. The suspects and accused must be arrested as soon as possible and placed in custody. We have received one answer: They can. Then why do we see hundreds of cases being rejected by the prosecutor because of detection defects? Furthermore, why do not the investigators and prosecution themselves take part in the compeletion of investigation from the very start? Yes, they can. [passage omitted]

Moreover, some dossiers are turned down by courts by injunctions, or when convicting they pass a sentence on the culprit which does not yield a desirable and effective result. We can see that the court decisions on dozens of cases do not comply with the maximum punishment envisaged by the law; and in some cases balancing aggravating and mitigating circumstances is in fact not being taken into account by a judge. The breach of aggravating circumstances and its amendment which has been reflected in Decree 128 shall be exercised especially in economic and financial cases, which directly relate to the rights of the citizens of the country. [passage omitted]

Dear judges and public prosecutors, in this section I would like to draw your attention to some other issues as well. I fully disapprove of cadre policy of the courts and offices of public prosecution. Cadres are not being appointed on the grounds of their capability, merit, piety, and good background in work, but rather on the basis of personal, tribal, and group inclinations and individual interest. And sometimes those personal inclinations are extreme; this causes factionalism in these organs. Allegedly they make themselves heroes in defending their positions on the appointment and removal of cadres. This in turn leads to the infiltration of some subversive elements that causes a hue and cry about bribery, moral corruption, and idleness. Finally, this leads to what is against the character of a judge and a public prosecutor, causing the weakening of the activities of judges and public prosecutors. Eventually, they turn the courts and offices of public prosecution into organs of oppression and the supression of the people. I am against those who in this respect embark on inappropriate interference without authority. [passage omitted]

I note another issue, too. In my speech dated 27 July 1989, I mentioned the unsound performance of the Department of State Cases [department acting on behalf of the state in civil cases]. Since then, about two years have elapsed. Despite the fact that the Presidency's Law Protection Affairs Administration has continually drawn the attention of the department to the urgent settlement of dozens of cases which remained unresolved for many years and although officials of the departments were closely consulted, the department reported back to the Presidency on the settlement of only a few cases. I think the settlement of the rest of the work would require dozens of years if work was continued in this manner. Once again, it is being emphatically noted that officials the Ministry of Justice should take urgent practical measures in respect of the speedy settlement of the cases. It is not inappropriate the attention of the Council of Ministers is drawn to this issue.

I note that some departments concerned in the resolving of civil cases, among them the Departments of Civil Cases and State Cases of the Ministry of Justice, which had been set up according to previous laws in the framework of that ministry, during this period had not shown active functions in the resolving of cases. The background of the existence of the Civil Cases Department shows the administration functioned sometimes as a department of the Supreme Court and sometimes as a department of the Ministry of Justice—as the duties of this department and courts overlap and as this leads to obstacles in the affairs of those who approach them. I think a necessary step shall be taken regarding this department's annexation to the Supreme Court on the basis of specific and rational reasons.

Also, the State Cases Department does function actively and positively and has preserved as an administrative department. While many litigations between state and real and corporate personalities exist, it was required that it should have acted as one of the litigants in the operative settlement of the cases. On the other side, the public prosecutor also acts as public litigator [modayi alumom], who is the protector of public interests and

presents criminal suits against real and corporate personalities. Therefore, it should be beneficial if the State Cases Department were not in the form of an administrative department and should be annexed as an active department to the Attorney General of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, in cases under the investigation of pubic prosecution offices sometimes recommendations, interference, diktat even by some officials of high rank can be seen, which in its own right makes the ensuring of social justice difficult. We authorized you not to have political associations in the fulfillment of your duties. No matter what position a person holds when he telephones you and then tell you that a case should be settled in a certain way, tell him resolutely—even if you hold the lowest position—that you are not going to act in the way he recommends. You are independent in making decisions. [applause]

Shortage of professional cadres often leads to the weakening of performance and decisions and lawsuits which eventually during legal consideration benefit the accused, and law is not enforced as should be. The country's laws have stated judiciary independence specifically, and that of prosecutors and investigators relatively. Unfortunately, sometimes this independence is utilized against the laws and shari'a and in the interest of the culprits, and self-satisfyig decisions and verdicts are passed—not based on the dossiers.

Unfortunately, preventive measures for campaigns against crimes and violations in administrations, institutions, units, and contingents are not being taken sufficiently and effectively, so corruption and violations show an increase. In such a situation the work of law protection organs on its own cannot prevent the occurance of all defiances and crimes. Frequently, heads of departments and commanders do not cooperate with investigators and prosecutors during consideration of cases; they even illegally protect their defiant colleagues and subordinates and create problems for the completion of investigations and the legal consideration of cases. Or, on the contrary, they want—due to personal inclinations—dossiers prepared against some people and to have them sentenced to punishment. [passage omitted]

Our observance and implementation of law gives the opposition and those who agree with us assurance to join the process of ensuring peace and to defend national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national traditions, and to serve the country, state, and mankind in line with the law. I wish you success in the discharge of your duties entrusted from God. May God save you. Amen. O God of the universe.

Pakistani Intelligence Service Aids Rebel Moves

BK1303134891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Kabul, March 13 (AFP)—The Soviet-backed Kabul government has accused Pakistan's military intelligence of planning intensifed mujahidin guerrilla attacks inside Afghanistan. Pakistan's Acting Charge d'Affaires Mahfuz ur-Rahman was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Tuesday and told to convey Kabul's protest to Islamabad, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman said Kabul wanted Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to intervene and prevent an escalation in mujahidin operations so that "chances of peace and of improvement in bilateral relations are not sabotaged." He said Kabul had received intelligence reports indicating that "certain elements within the Pakistan armed forces were trying to intensify through mujahidin guerrillas military operations in the border areas."

An escalation in guerrilla activity plotted by the Pakistan military would be "highly objectionable and dangerous, especially after the recent peace offer of President Najibullah to Islamabad to improve relations." Mr. Najibullah has in recent weeks urged Pakistan to start a new era of friendship, saying their ties should be based on "political and economic cooperation, and not political and economic rivalry."

A diplomat noted that Afghanistan had, for the first time, been sparing in its criticism of Pakistan's civilian government, signalling Mr. Najibullah's desire to improve ties with Islamabad, the mujahidin's chief backer.

"By identifying the source of intervention from the Pakistan military, we are implicitly saying to Pakistan's elected government to contain the Inter-Services Intelligence," the Afghan spokesman said.

Mujahidin Repulse Armored Attack in Lowgar

BK1403083191 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin recently repulsed an attack by the Kabul regime in Lowgar Province. The armored units conducted shelling on rural localities; however, the mujahidin foiled the attack by launcing a counterattack on the invading troops.

India

Election Commissioner on Preparation for Polls

BK1303155691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, has said that the Lok Sabha election can be held

sometime after the middle of May. Exact dates will be announced after considering all aspects, including law and order. In an informal talk with reporters in New Delhi this evening, he said he has been in touch with the Cabinet secretary and the union home secretary.

Mr. Seshan said the electoral rolls in respect of all states, except Kerala, are now ready. In Kerala, the final rolls will be published toward the end of the first week of next month. The total electorate in the country for the Lok Sabha is projected to be around 521 million.

Replying to a question, Mr. Seshan said the commission is ready for [state] assembly elections wherever they have been due. Four states—Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, and Tamil Nadu—and the union territory of Pondicherry are under the president's rule at present.

Parties Announce Issues, Alliances for Elections

BK1403092691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] With the poll schedule yet to be announced, political parties [are] gearing themselves up for the elections. Fresh alliances are likely to take place. While the Janata Dal-S has said that it has not considered any party as untouchable, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has announced that it will have electoral alliance with the Shiv Sena. It has also indicated that it may enter into an understanding with some other parties. The party leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the BJP will contest about 450 seats.

The National Front and the Left parties have decided to fight the elections unitedly. Issues like social justice, secularism, and stability are likely to be the major planks on which the forthcoming election will be fought. The Congress-I has announced that stability, price rise, and the present economic situation will be its main election issues. While the Janata Dal-S says that the performance of the Chandra Shekhar government during the last four months will be its most important plank, the BJP says that the perception of secularism in the context of Ayodhya will be its principal issue in the elections.

The Janata Dal has said that it will go to the people on issues like secularism, social and economic justice, and decentralization of political and economic power.

Upcoming Elections To Raise 'Bitter Issues'

BK1403052991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0215 GMT 14 Mar 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP)—Indian politicians poised for another electoral showdown are preparing to exhume the bitter issues they have used—often recklessly—to bring each other down in the country's roughneck politics.

As they welcomed President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's decision Wednesday [13 March] to call new elections, political parties said their campaigns would revolve around the issues that shaped the November 1990 vote and disputes opened since then.

The 15 stormy months since the last polls, which produced a hung parliament, have seen two governments forced out of office when they were deserted by their parliamentary allies.

"Do not vote for saboteurs. People must be careful before exercising their votes, they must keep in mind who sabotaged my government," outgoing Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said after polls were announced. "One thing is certain, our strength will increase in the next polls," Mr. Shekhar said, but refused to disclose if his breakway Janata Dal (Socialist) was seeking electoral alliances.

The career politician quit office March 6 after his main ally, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, boycotted parliament, leaving Mr. Shekhar's government outnumbered by opposition MPs [members of parliament]. Mr. Gandhi denied the boycott amounted to a withdrawal of legislative support and insisted it was designed to protest alleged police surveillance of his New Delhi home.

Mr. Shekhar and 56 breakaway MPs from predecessor Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party) formed a government November 10 after the Congress (I) Party extended legislative support with its 195 MPs.

"Our acceptance of the Mandal Commission report will be our main poll plank," said Janata Dal spokesman Jaipal Reddy, referring to the thorny job quotas recommended by a panel headed by a late MP, B.P. Mandal. Mr. V.P. Singh in September steeply hiked government job quotas for 52 per cent of India's 850 million people defined as members of backward castes, triggering a wave of street protests and suicides by students who said the plan made mockery of merit.

Political opponents called the job quota system a populist gimmick by Mr. V.P. Singh to carve out an unbeatable caste-based vote bank. "We are for social justice.... We are for equality," said his colleague M.S. Gurpadswamy, denying the accusation.

Mr. V.P. Singh's plan prompted the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to launch an equally divisive campaign centering on a disputed 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya which it wants to replace with a Hindu temple.

The BJP withdrew legislative support for Mr. V.P. Singh in November 1990, bringing down the 11-month-old government, after its leader Lal Krishna Advani was arrested on a road journey to Ayodhya he launched to garner Hindu support.

"We completely oppose BJP's Hindu-revivalist plank," Mr. Reddy said, adding that his party would contest the

polls along with leftists and four partners in the centrist National Front. "We will have nothing to do with the BJP before or after the elections," the Dal spokesman said angrily.

The BJP, seen to be emerging as a political superpower because of its popular Hindu crusade, is equally firm that the temple-mosque dispute will be a major poll issue. "We will not slow down our plans to build our temple on the site of the mosque.... After all it is the basic right of us Hindus," BJP official Madan Lal Khurana said.

Hundreds died in Hindu-Moslem rioting that erupted countrywide after the BJP stepped up its powderkeg programme last year to demolish the ancient mosque which it claims was built on the ruins of a Hindu temple in the 16th century.

The BJP has still not been forgiven by Mr. V.P. Singh's party and his communist allies for toppling the experimental coalition he forged to come to power. "The Communist Party of India will contest polls projecting the betrayal by the BJP (of Mr. V.P. Singh) and the breaking of his party by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar," CPI Secretary Chaturanan Misra said. "The people will now be able to judge the stand of the various political parties.... And those responsible for the creation of the present crisis," added the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

Observers believe that the upcoming election campaign will see politicians trying to outdo each other in muckraking.

Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I), caught on the wrong foot by Mr. Shekhar's resignation, is expected to stick to its 1989 theme of national unity and launch a tirade against the political uncertainty of the last 15 months to project itself as an upholder of stability. "Our main plank would be that non-congressism does not work. This is the third experiment since 1977 that has failed. They could not carry on more than one and a half years," Congress (I) Chief spokesman Vithal Gadgil said. "We would also focus on unity and integrity of India and rising prices," he said, adding that the Congress (I) will get a "comfortable majority" in parliament.

The elections are expected in May, though no date has been announced.

U.S. Report on Apartheid in Fiji Welcomed

BK1303034791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] India has welcomed the U.S. Government's report taking note of the racial discrimination being practiced in Fiji. Commenting on the report, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman expressed the hope that other democratic countries would also follow the American example. The spokesman said India has always taking the position that the constitutional setup in Fiji is by no means an ideal one and there is inbuilt discrimination in it.

USSR Appreciates Delhi's Position on Gulf War

BK1403034291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The Soviet Union has appreciated India's stand on the Gulf war. This was conveyed by the Soviet vice president, Mr. Gennadiy Yanayev, to the Indian ambassador, Mr. Gonsalves, in Moscow yesterday. The Soviet Union assured India that the political changes in either country would not affect their traditional close ties. Mr. Gonsalves told Mr. Yanayev of India's deep interest in seeing the Soviet Union remaining a strong and unified country.

Kuwait Envoy Says War Position To Prove Costly

BK1003134691 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Mar 91 p 6

[By A. Balu, EXPRESS news service]

[Text] New York, March 3—When Kuwait returns to normal, and embarks on the task of rebuilding itself, a number of nations will be competing to win multi-million or even multi-billion dollar contracts to reconstruct the country's economy. India may not even be allowed to stand in the queue.

Foreign businesses and establishments which had operated in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion on August 2 last year may like to re-enter the country. Here again Indian companies and personel have a poor chance of being accepted by the Kuwaiti authorities.

The reason? Those countries which stood solidly behind Kuwait during its six-month ordeal will get preferential treatment. On the basis of this criterion, India does not qualify the test, according to the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Muhammad A. Abu-al-Hasan.

Mr Abu-al-Hasan did not mince words in expressing his disappointment over the stand the Indian government took on the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. In an interview to two Indian correspondents at his plush office located near the United Nations, he dropped clear hints that it would be difficult to treat India on a par with countries which had extended spontaneous and ready support to Kuwait.

"I do not want to be understood (as saying) that no Indian companies will have a share, but if we have to choose between India and Egypt, given the same technical level and competence, the choice is between a country which was a spectator," said Mr Abu-al-Hasan, who has been his country's ambassador at the United Nations for at least six years now.

Mr Abu-al-Hasan is quite pleased with India's role in the Gulf crisis in the two months since it became a member of the Security Council, and he especially praised the Indian Ambassador, Mr C.R. Gharekhan, for defending the Kuwaiti case.

But, he said, "We were very much unhappy with the Indian position for the first few months of the crisis. For us, it was difficult to understand why a clear-cut condemnation would not come from a country like India, which is a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, and which has distinguished itself on peace and taken a courageous position in the past."

What probably irked Kuwait most was the visit to that country by the former minister of external affairs, Mr I.K. Gujral, in the wake of the Iraqi invasion. India was among the first countries to close down their diplomatic missions. Mr Gujral's visit was apparently prompted by his concern for the safety of thousands of Indians in Kuwait, but it seems to have certainly annoyed the Kuwaiti leaders.

Mr Abu-al-Hasan noted that India has spoken in the past against aggression in Asia, Africa and Latin America. "I tried to see the reason for the Indian stand on the Gulf crisis," he said. "If you have some interests in Iraq, you have some interests in Kuwait also. But economic interests alone should not be the consideration. There is also justice. You have been in the forefront in the matter of principles. Indian philosophy and doctrine is a shcool in itself to follow. In the case of Kuwait, your stand in the first few months was a disappointment."

Mr Abu-al-Hasan said he had noted the change in the Indian stand, but change should not be taking place "just because we have started complains." The Ambassador hoped that this would not affect future relations between the two nations.

There were a lot of thing that bound the two countries. Prior to the Iraqi invasion, Mr Abu-al-Hasan noted, there were 120,000 Indians in Kuwait. Many Indian companies had been destroyed and looted during the Iraqi invasion, and savings of thousands of Indians working in Kuwait had been "stolen" by Iraq.

Mr Abu-al-Hasan said the criteria that would be applied in future for the re-establishment of foreign business would be different. From the point of view of fairness, countries which stood solidly behind Kuwait would have priority over others.

"How can anybody with conscience say that manpower from Egypt should not be preferred to manpower from another country? Egypt sent 50,000 troops to defend Kuwait. It was politically and diplomatically also active. How can we equate Egypt with any other country which tried to link the Palestinian problem with our problem or tried to be neutral in this matter? How can I equate Egypt with India or others which took a stand that was not serving the justice of our cause?"

Mr Abu-al-Hasan indicated that his Government might reconsider its population policy in order to reduce the number of foreign nationals in Kuwait. "We are learning that dependence on cheap manpower should be limited and only essential needs for manpower should be allowed."

Prior to the Iraqi invasion, only 30 per cent of the people in Kuwait were Kuwaitis. The Kuwaiti Planning Minister, Mr Sulayman Mutaww'a, has said that in future his country's will be better utilised. [sentence as published]

Mr Abu-al-Hasan said his Government was taking "very seriously" the question of reparations by Iraq for the loss, damage or injury sustained by Kuwaitis and other nationals as a result of the invasion.

He said the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister had written to his counterparts in countries whose nationals were working in Kuwait to inform the Kuwait Government about their claims. Kuwait has also called on the UN Secretary-General to dispatch a high-level delegation from the UN Secretariat as soon as possible to assess the damage caused by the invasion.

The Kuwaiti Government will also be presenting some ideas for the setting-up of an international tribunal to asess the claims and also to transfer Iraqi funds and freeze them until reparation claims were met. Iraq has assets in the United States and Europe. They were frozen following the invasion of Kuwait.

Mr Abu-al-Hasan expressed his country's indignation at the stand taken by the Palestinian leadership. "We have been betrayed by the PLO leadership," he said. "We tried to change their position, but all our efforts failed."

Delhi Prepares for Share in Gulf Reconstruction

BK1103163691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] India is gearing up its official machinery to make use of the emerging opportunities for reconstruction in the Gulf and other parts of the world. A high-level committee has been set up to provide a single-point clearance to Indian project exporters. The 11-member committee will be headed by the special secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. S. Kanungo. The government had recently set up another group to identify project export opportunities, particularly in the Gulf region.

Kuwait Seeks Support for Projects

BK1203161691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait has informed India that there is no truth in reports that India's role in its reconstruction efforts will be adversely affected because of the position taken by India during the Gulf crisis. Official sources in New Delhi said the Kuwaiti authorities have already been in touch with Indian companies and professionals who had work experience in Kuwait, and also with others.

Commentary Views Bangladesh Elections, Relations

BK0903132491 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Kripasagar commentary: "Bangladesh Elections and India"]

[Text] India's interest in the fifth Bangladesh parliamentary election held on 27th of this month is primarily because of the return of democracy, nearly peaceful, fair, and free polls, issues involved, and the future relations the new government will have with us. Being immediate neighbor sharing borders with Bangladesh, India will have to adjust the foreign policy parameters accordingly.

The role of All-Party Students Union and the popular opposition upsurge that forced President Ershad hand over power to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on 12 December last year tilted balance in favor of Bangladesh Nationalist Party headed by Begum Zia who is likely to form government next month. Unlike 1973, 1979, and 1986, this election had no government party, as the administration had been passed on to a neutral power. The 1988 election is yet to be counted because it was boycotted by all the major opposition political parties. Parties there formed alliances (?in) trying to avoid cross voting, leaving only four major parties in the field—Bangladesh Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Begum Khaleda Zia, the Jatiya Party led by former President Ershad now in detention, and on the other side of the spectrum, the Jamaat-i-Islami and Bangladesh Muslim League banned during the Mujib regime.

We must see the election outcome before we go into the issues involved. Of the 300 seats, elections were held for 298 because of the death of two candidates contesting from Munshiganj and Kushtia constituencies, and the results were: Out of 294 constituencies, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party got 138 seats, the Awami League got 86 with its alliance getting another 11, Jatiya Party 35, and Jamaat-i-Islami 18; only six seats were secured by other parties, including three by the independents. Since no party could get clear majority, our interest is to see how effectively they worked.

Elections in Bangladesh have given verdict in favor of Islamic nationalism by giving maximum seats to Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Begum Zia remains as an uncompromising crusader fighting relentlessly against the autocratic regime of General Ershad and pro-Islamic stand in a country where Islam is the state religion paid rich dividends, though there was general expectation that the Awami League would perform much better than it has actually done. The noisiness of the campaign, the provision of publicity materials, the high profile of Awami League leaders, all added up to this impression.

But failure of Awami League shows that it could never unburden itself of the legacy it has carried over ever since the implication of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Agartala conspiracy case and the party's open solicitation of Indian efforts and support in its struggle against West Pakistani domination during the period before liberation. Again Sheikh Hasina also could not carry on along with the whole party, including alliance. Lastly, running an extremely personalized campaign, Sheikh Hasina identified her party with the country and herself with the party and this did not pay her.

The acting Bangladesh president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has meanwhile summoned the newly elected parliament on 5 April and the formation of the government is expected within a week thereafter by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Awami League has been (?all) out for the election of 30 members by the elected members before forming the government. She has also demanded parliamentary form of government instead of presidential form which has been supported by the Jatiya Party.

With India's solemn commitment to a policy of nonalignment, peaceful coexistence with its neighbors, and a democracy based on secularism, we would always be keen to have friendly relations with Bangladesh. However, it is yet to be seen how Begum Zia and her party are able to reciprocate. The fact that India and Bangladesh are important members of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] also deserves to be noted.

Morocco Seeks Expertise in Nuclear, Other Fields

BK0903082791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Morocco has expressed its desire to have Indian expertise and technical know-how in several fields, including rural electrification, research in nuclear power, and atomic energy. This was stated in a joint communique issued at the end of a two-day Indo-Moroccan trade talks in New Delhi yesterday. The two sides also agreed to establish joint ventures in several fields, including electronics, agro-based industries, tourism, and leather goods. Both the countries have agreed on the need for taking steps to correct the present trade imbalances. It was decided to organize an Indian exhibition at Casablanca during this year. The Indian side was represented at the talks by the commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy; and the Moroccan side by its minister for external trade, Mr. Hassan Ayoub.

Kashmir Police Charge Soldiers With Mass Rape

BK1403104291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Jammu, India, March 14 (AFP)—Police have charged soldiers from an elite Indian assault unit with mass rape during a search operation for Moslem militants in this northern state of Kashmir, officials said here Thursday.

The police registered criminal complaints Thursday after 500 residents from the village of Kunan Poshpura in the valley's Kupwara District mailed letters accusing army soldiers of rape during a night-long search last month. Kupwara's Chief Administrator S.M. Yasin said an investigation had also been ordered by the army into the incident in which at least 23 Moslem women were raped by an unspecified number of soldiers.

Infantry troopers stormed the snowbound village February 23 and after ordering the menfolk at gunpoint to leave they raped the women, Mr. Yasin said, adding that among the victims was a 60-year-old woman and a new mother. "I immediately spoke to higher officials as soon as I came to know of the incident. This is a very serious matter," said Mr. Yasin, adding the incident came to light only when the villagers wrote to the Kupwara administration. He said the infantrymen occupied the village for the night during which they raped almost all adult women in one of the worst incidents of atrocities in the troubled state bordering Pakistan.

Moslem women's organisations in March 1990 accused paramilitary border security force troopers of raping more than two dozen women in the residential Channpura District of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, during a search for secessionists. The allegations were initially denied, but testimony from some rape victims resulted in several indictments.

Thousands of army and paramilitary troops are deployed in the region to battle Kashmir militants spearheading a Moslem campaign for the region's secession from India. Search operations for Moslem militants are conducted almost daily as the separatists attack securitymen from rooftops of civilian homes in busy city districts.

Spokesman Denies Army Involvement

BK1403130291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The government has rejected allegations appearing in a national daily about a rape incident involving the security forces in Kashmir as malicious and untrue. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said that the particular report appears to have been inspired by antinational elements to malign the armed forces. He pointed that a normal cordon and search operation was carried out in a village in Kupwara District on the night of the 23d February under supervision of senior officers.

Pakistan-Trained Militants Surrender in Kashmir

BK1103151491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Twenty-six Pak-trained militants have surrendered to the security forces in the border districts of Baramula and Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir. Eleven of them belong to the Muslim Janbaz Force and eight to the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]. An official spokesman said today that a large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

Prevention of Misusing Official Property Urged

BK1403092091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] The National Front and left parties have urged the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, to lay down guidelines for the caretaker government at the center to prevent misuse of official machinery, including the use of aircraft.

In a joint statement, the nine parties asked the government to set up a committee of representatives of political parties and media men of repute to oversee the functioning of the two electronic media. They also demanded that the caretaker government should honor the long-established tradition of refraining from taking any policy decisions.

Iran

Velayati Meets Lebanese Hizballah Officials

LD1303172991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Members of the Council of Lebanese Hizballah this afternoon met Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East. At the meeting, Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, submitted a report on the latest developments in Lebanon. He stressed the need for Muslims to unite under existing conditions and to maintain the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Mr. Velayati said it is imperative for Muslims to maintain unity among their ranks, and continue their campaign against the Zionist enemy and the compromising plans being drawn up against the Muslim nation of Palestine.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs also called on all Muslim and nationalist forces in Lebanon and Palestine to maintain their unity and give their unstinting support, under the existing sensitive conditions, to Muslim strugglers inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With War Disabled

NC1303123991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday met with a number of disabled people and officials of the Foundation of the Oppressed and the Disabled of the Islamic Revolution. In his remarks he described the disabled brothers as glorious and inspirational people and added: Our people still remember the combat epic and the spectacular days of sacred defense. They will

never forget the selfless and devoted forces who sacrificed their health for the glory of the revolution and for defending the ideals of Islam.

Pointing to the need to solve the everyday problems of the disabled, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The society needs to keep its glories always alive and to keep the selfless, devoted, combatant, and martyr-seeking spirit always fresh by expressing its gratitude to the disabled. The president also called for the creation of jobs suited to the physical capabilities of the disabled and added: These dear ones should not become tired with jeavy work.

The president noted that many of the obstacles and problems facing the movement of the Islamic revolution have today been removed and the world is increasingly realizing the correctness of Islam and Iran. Now we are not unknown or regarded as alien in the world as we were five or six years ago; and this is significant. Our objectives have been recognized, and the world has accepted that we were fighting correctly. These victories are the fruits yielded by the jihad of the disabled of the Islamic revolution, of the martyrs, of the missing in action, of the selfless devotees, and of the dear combatants.

Before Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks, the deputy chairman of the Foundation of the Oppressed and of the Disabled of the Islamic Revolution submitted a report to the president on the activities of the foundation.

Refugees Describe Karbala' Area Fighting

LD1303172591 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Mar. 13, IRNA—Several Iraqis from Karbala' who have fled to Iran relate stories of bloody clashes between Iraqi Army and the rising people. They say the Army has marched into Karbala' and that guerrilla fights continue between the people and the Army that uses semi-heavy guns indiscriminately killing the people.

Jasim Yaqub who crossed the border to Iran along with his family Wednesday says popular forces continue to fight the Iraqi Army despite the heavily suppressive measures by the Army in Karbala'.

One arriving Iraqi said today how he had witnessed a young Iraqi at the wheel who ran over several Iraqi Armymen by a truck that he was operating. The young Iraqi, according to him, was shot dead at the wheel. He said the young people in Karbala' ambush the Republican Guards and seize their arms.

The news bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Wednesday said that clashes between the people and the army were continuing in Najaf, Karbala' and Kut.

Black Smoke, Acid Rain Over Khuzestan Province

LD1303094691 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 13, IRNA—Heavy smoke has darkened the skies of Susangerd, Bostan, Hamidiyeh and Hoveyzeh in this southwestern province since Wednesday morning blocking the sunlight.

Automobiles have turned on their headlights while shops and street lights are on and the odour of burning oil has filled the area.

Meanwhile, acid rain continues to fall in most parts of the province and black water is running in city brooks.

Smoke Spreads to West Azerbaijan

LD1303152791 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Mar. 13, IRNA—Rising smoke from burning oil wells in Iraq and Kuwait is bringing black rain in many cities in western provinces of Iran.

In Bakhtaran Province on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning black rain has left a black layer of greasy dirt on city streets and tree branches. Similar rain has been falling in many other cities of Bakhtaran Province including Eslamabad-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin and Gilan-e Gharb. The weather bureau in Bakhtaran says rainfall over Tuesday and Wednesday morning in the province was 16.4 millimeters.

Black rain has also been falling for the first time in Mahabad in West Azerbaijan Prov. since 14.15 hours local time (10.45 GMT) today leaving a running greasy black film on roadside drains and city streets.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tours Western Provinces

LD1303155591 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here Wednesday morning in the first leg of his tour of three western provinces damaged in 1980-88 war.

In his tour to Bakhtaran, Ilam and Kordestan Provinces President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is accompanied by his deputy for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh and the representatives of the three provinces in the Majles.

Tehran Demands Treaty Before Returning Planes

PM0803120591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tripartite Meeting Discussed Saddam's Fate"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Official Iranian quarters have refused to return 163 Iraqi military and

civilian aircraft and some 80 helicopters which fled to Iranian territory during the Gulf war, which broke out on 17 January.

An Iranian source close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office has pointed out that Sa'dun Hammadi, Saddam's second deputy, who arrived in Tehran Tuesday on an unexpected visit, carried with him a message from Saddam Husayn to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which the head of the Iraqi regime expressed his indignation at Iran's policy and its support of the Iraqi opposition movement in the towns close to the borders, like al-Basrah and al-'Amarah.

The Iranian source added that Saddam reminded the Iranian president of the agreement concluded between his brother Barzan al-Takriti and the chief of Iranian military intelligence on 19 January under which Iraq sent its aircraft to Iran. Saddam demanded the return of these aircraft to Iraq. But Iranian officials, first and foremost President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, told Saddam Husayn's envoy that Iran would not return the aircraft before the signing of a peace treaty and the departure of the international legitimacy forces from Iraqi territory.

The source also added that Saddam Husayn's envoy listened to a statement by an adviser to the Iranian president who said: "We are willing to return the aircraft when the effects of the war and its principal cause disappear. We are not interested in the identity of whoever will do that quickly; and if you were to be that person, we would welcome you and return the aircraft to you."

The Iranian source revealed that a meeting was held between Sa'dun Hammadi and a senior diplomat from one of Iran's neighboring countries during Hammadi's recent visit to Tehran. The source pointed out that a prominent Iranian official joined in the talks, which focused on the Saddam's and Iraq's future. The meeting was held on the eve of the Baghdad envoy's meeting with the Soviet deputy foreign minister, who arrived in Iran 24 hours after Hammadi's arrival in Tehran.

Voice, Vision Chief Speaks on War Coverage

LD1003124191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] A gathering of news editors of the centers of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran started its work with a speech from Mr Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision Organization, in Tehran's Bilal Mosque this morning.

According to our correspondent, the head of Voice and Vision announced the principles and policies of the organization on news broadcasts. He said: The Voice and Vision must base its action on these principled policies. This movement must remain alert and put aside emotions and taking sides. It must be orderly and organized.

He praised the good informative and political activities of the organization and the cooperation and coordination of news centers inside and outside the country during the Persian Gulf crisis. He said: The stages for the production, coordination and broadcast of news are difficult and complicated procedures. Under the shadow of this successful (?experience), we managed to break the censorship on war news. For this reason, our news broadcasts were a source for announcing correct news concerning the war. Therefore, more investment is needed for the training of expert cadres and the creation of more active news bureaus.

The head of Voice and Vision then referred to ideas on the reconstruction phase of our country. He announced that those involved in news must, through political and economic eyes, view the strong and weak points and reflect them.

Next, Mr Hemmati, deputy in charge of political affairs of the Voice and Vision Organization, discussed the current economic and political situation in the world. He said: Answering the real needs of society must top the agenda. He stressed the need for faster work in news centers and invited political, economic, and sociological experts to create a healthy climate and actively cooperate with the Voice and Vision Organization in discussing various issues.

UN Chief Says Gulf Security To Include Iran

LD1303210991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The UN secretary general has declared that, without the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], one cannot talk about Persian Gulf security. According to an IRNA report, Javier Perez de Cuellar met yesterday with Dr. Kharrazi, Iran's permanent UN representative, and considered the present conditions as conducive to following up regional issues, including the Persian Gulf security, and called for the cooperation of all the Persian Gulf regional states in this regard.

Dr. Kharrazi also mentioned that the IRI, as the largest regional state, believes in the concerted cooperation of all Persian Gulf regional states regarding regional security, and considers any plan outside this framework to be unscientific and rejects it. He added: We are opposed to competitive plans regarding Persian Gulf security, and do not believe that such plans lead to lasting security. In the meeting, Dr. Kharrazi also submitted a report about President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposal to the Iraqi Government on respecting the demands of that country's nation and avoiding more bloodshed.

In reply, the secretary general expressed concern about the condition of the Iraqi people and said that at this moment, his representatives in Iraq are busy reviewing the medical and food requirements of that country's people.

Commentary Views Rift in Turkey's Ruling Party

NC0703120291 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Growing Rift in the Ruling Motherland Party in Turkey"]

[Excerpts] The arguments during the ruling Motherland Party [ANAP] provincial congress in Istanbul two nights ago strengthened the rift between the liberal and the conservative factions within ANAP. This led to the postponement of the congress. What increased the importance of ANAP's provincial congress in Istanbul were the separate lists presented by the factions in that party. This is the first time something like this has happened in ANAP's eight-year history.

It will be recalled that President Turgut Ozal's wife, Semra Ozal, said some time ago that she would run for the leadership of the party branch in Istanbul. Turgut Ozal, ANAP's liberal wing, and several of ANAP's nationalist deputies supported Semra Ozal. Prime Minister Akbulut voiced support for Semra Ozal's candidacy at the last moment. Talat Yilmaz was the candidate of the conservative faction. He was supported by several ministers.

According to a number of political observers, the rift within the party and the various sides' struggle to increase their influence will add to the strength of the conservative faction within ANAP. In view of this, President Turgut Ozal felt the need to increase his influence by placing his wife at the head of the party organization in Istanbul.

The party organization in Istanbul is believed to have influence in ANAP's internal structure and in internal politics in Turkey. The postponement of ANAP's provincial congress is being viewed from this angle. In fact, Talat Yilmaz has claimed that the congress in Istanbul has been postponed because it is obvious that he would win. Yilmaz also blamed the chairman of the congress for the postponement. [passage omitted]

The political observers believe that because of its influence in Turkey's political life, Istanbul, which is the largest city in Turkey, will have a bearing on the structure of ANAP's leadership cadre in the future. The same observers also believe that ANAP's provincial congress in Istanbul can determine fate.

Turkish, Iranian Treatment of Kurds Condemned

NC1303173291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Though relations between the Islamic Republic and the Turkish Government have never been low-level ones, and apart from some instances of offended feelings and some expressions of disagreement about each other's stances, relations have been warm and friendly on the whole, they have gone beyond their previous level. They became more favorable after problems emerged following Iraq's attack on and occupation of Kuwait. High- and low-ranking officials from both regimes have made frequent visits over the past six months to each other's capitals. Of course, each time the official word at the end of the visits is that the talks have been useful and will be productive. And the two sides—that is, the Iranian and Turkish officials—point out that these relations should be preserved and that cooperation between the two countries should continue.

Also, Iranian and Turkish officials always state that both regimes oppose any kind of change, intervention, or tampering in the region's geographical map. Here, we will not discuss either the fact that as far as we know, none of the parties to the Persian Gulf war made such a point or that anyone has voiced such a demand until now. It is clear, however, to anyone who is the least bit acquainted with the region's political and diplomatic affairs or with current affairs in general what the objective is behind the repeated visits made by the Islamic Republic and the Turkish Government, and what is so important to the two sides that requires these repeated visits and meetings.

Undoubtedly, one of the reasons behind the Iranian and Turkish officials' visits is the regional situation. As we know, both Iran and Turkey are two countries neighboring Iraq, and Iraq is one of the belligerents in the Persian Gulf conflict. Naturally, any change in Iraq will have direct or indirect impact on both neighboring countries. Thus, both sides deem it necessary to keep in mind the situation of the region in general and the situation in Iraq in particular, and to carefully observe incidents related to the region.

It is by bearing in mind this reality that Iran and Turkey had differing stances on the Persian Gulf conflicts. And it is improbable that after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis, America and its allies are planning a substantial role for them in the region's security system or that one of these two countries—according to the country in question itself—is to be included in this plan.

During their meetings, Iran and Turkey try to do their best to gain a noteworthy role and position for themselves. And the Islamic Republic is trying, by exploiting Turkey's friendly relations with America, to actually use Turkey as a bridge for contacts with America.

The other issue that the regimes ruling Iran and Turkey consider significant and from which they feel a threat is the Kurdish problem. Neither of the two regimes has ever had any differences of opinion or stances on this problem. As we know, there are about 14 million Kurds in Turkey's Kurdistan and about 7 million Kurds in Iranian Kordestan. Both these populations are still oppressed by the two regimes, and the reactionary natures of the Iranian and Turkish Governments have not allowed the Kurds in these two countries to enjoy their national rights and to determine their fate. On the

contrary they have constantly been under pressure, harassed, suppressed, and massacred.

But, naturally despite the suppression, the Kurdish people's resistance and struggle continue both in Iran and in Turkey, and the Kurds continue their struggle for national rights and democratic freedoms. Now that the officials of the Islamic Republic and Turkey see that the Kurdish people's political struggle and activities have attracted the attention of world public opinion and of humanitarian forums and organizations to a greater extent than ever before and to gain their support for the Kurdish people's trampled rights, they have been overtaken by fear and by the threat that the freedom-seeking wave will crest and that the Kurdish people's success in achieving their legitimate rights will make things difficult for them. Therefore, they are constantly paying visits to each other's capitals and exchanging views.

The threat felt by the regimes of the Islamic Republic and of Turkey, as far as the Kurdish problem is concerned, has recently intensified because, on the one hand world, public opinion has placed these two regimes under pressure for violating human rights and trampling on the elemental human rights of the Kurdish people and, on the other hand, the Kurdish people's struggle is being observed in a more spectacular way and is continuing in the path leading to freedom and autonomy. With this struggle approaching victory and the materialization of democracy and autonomy, the reactionary nature of these two regimes is threatened more than ever before.

Both the Iranian and the Turkish regimes are well aware of the fact that if democracy in its true sense is established and implemented in Iran and Turkey, and the oppressed Iranian and Turkish people achieve their rights, this will actually mean the disintegration of these two regimes' dictatorship and their hellish power. Thus, both regimes are facing the same problem and have the same views, and they want—with the help of an unholy and reactionary alliance—to act against the just and justice-seeking struggle of the Kurdish people especially as the Islamic Republic of Iran does not believe in the least in democracy and in the rights of the oppressed Iranian people. In this regard, it is trying to join in with all the region's suppressive forces and to hatch plots and machinations against all the Iranian freedom-seekers and the Kurdish strugglers and to put more pressure on them.

In short, the extensive discussion of the Kurdish problem at the international level has sent shivers down the spines of the regimes of the Islamic Republic and of Turkey and has placed them in a tight spot. Thus, undoubtedly, one of the basic and main topics discussed during the meetings between the two regimes concerns ways to prevent the Kurdish people from achieving freedom. But we think that the time has come for both the clerical regime and the Turkish regime to accept the reality that the process of democracy and the further deepening and advancement of the Kurdish people's just struggle for their national rights will never allow them to continue their dictatorship and their violation of the national rights of the Kurdish people any more. They should accept the fact that they can no longer continue to prepare joint plans to crush the Kurdish people and plot against them, and that they will no longer be able to toy with the fate of more than 25 million Kurds and continue their exploitation and the annihilation of their identity.

Without a doubt the struggle, resistance, and unity of the ranks of the Kurdish people in both these countries will move toward victory and will not stop until they achieve their human rights.

Greek Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1103222191 Tehan IRNA in English 1314 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 11, IRNA—Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras arrived in Tehran today for a 3-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and to discuss current developments in the region.

Welcoming Samaras at the Mehrbad Airport, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope that historic friendly ties between Athens and Tehran would be further expanded and strengthened.

The Greek foreign minister voiced his happiness to be in the Islamic Republic of Iran and hoped that his visit would further deepen relations beween the two states.

Earlier, in an interview with the Islamic Republic New Agency (IRNA) on the special Olympic Airways flight to Tehran from Athens, Samaras said Greece would become the bridge between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Community (EC). "Greece is so close to the Iranian people that we can be a bridge between Iran and the EC. We can be a believable bridge and we feel strongly that we have to develop these ties," he told IRNA. "I am very happy to visit Iran and that I will again meet my friend Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and I also look forward to meet President Hashemi-Rafsanjani," Samaras said.

He will also discuss the post-Persian Gulf war developments in the region with Iranian Government officials.

"We want to study together with Iran the developments in the whole region and discuss about peace in the area and the way the new settlement will be materialised."

The Greek minister said he believed that "all the wars that have happened because of intransigence of some people like Saddam Husayn must be things of the past." "Biological weapons, chemical warfare, and nuclear weapons should be things of the past," the young, energetic 39-year old Samaras said.

The minister, who had many Iranian friends while studying in Harvard University in the U.S., noted that

'both peoples are ancient and have had parallel civilisations and are still close to one another.' 'It is imperative to discuss the further strengthening of ties between the two countries,' Samras underlined.

The minister is accompanied by the general secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Panayoitis Oikonomoui, other Foreign Ministry officials and 28 Greek journalists, on his first visit to the Islamic Republic.

Samaras stressed that political and economic relations between Athens and Tehran should develop hand-in-hand. 'On the one hand we have the political cooperation and on the other hand economic relations. Trade, finance, shipping, tourism, anything that has to do with our economies.' 'I do not believe that there can be progress in the political sector unless you also have parallel increase in economic relations,' he said.

The Greek minister will also discuss ways to boost trade exchanges with Iran's Minister of Housing and Urban Development Serajeddin Kazeruni, and is also expected to sign a cooperation agreement on the sectors of technology and air transport with Iran. Asked about the Greek concept of the much-talked new security system for the region, Samaras said the matter was still under discussion in the EEC. Greece believes that the countries of the region should decrease defense spending and eliminate weapons of mass-destruction, he said. he stressed on the necessity of a prompt solution to the outstanding serious problems such as the Palestine question, Lebanon and the Cyprus issue. 'We would like to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for helping us on the Cyprus affair,' he said.

It is expected that the two sides will bring up the issue of visa problem during the talks in Tehran. Both Greece and Iran are still strict in granting visas to each other's nationals.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1203180291 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday expressed concern on the current events inside Iraq and described as "very bad" the Iraqi people's situation.

In his meeting with visiting Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras, the Hojjat ol-Eslam urged Greece and other European countries to try to "rid these distressed people (Iraqis)" who have suffered a lot from the expansionist policies of the global arrogance. "The damage incurred by the Iraqi people is so much that all should endeavor to alleviate their pains," he said.

On ways of preserving regional security, the president said "we believe that enforcement of Article 8 of Resolution 598, for which the U.N. secretary-general is responsible, will lead to proper arrangement for peace and tranquility in the region."

Samaras said in reply that Greece as a member of the European Community attaches "great importance" to Iran's "key role" in the region. He also called for preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity. The Greek foreign minister arrived here Monday on a three day official visit.

Comments on Tehran Talks

LD1203181191 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan.12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic and Greece today agreed to open a new chapter to "firmly bind their friendly relations", following the visit of Greek foreign minister Andonios Samaras to Tehran.

"This is a new chapter in the relationship of our two countries" both Samaras and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati underlined in a joint press conference Tuesday.

Velayati noted that relations between Iran and Greece were "deep rooted" and were growing in the positive direction.

The Greek foreign minister arrived in Tehran Monday for a 3-day official visit aimed at discussing post-Persian Gulf war developments in the region and to promote bilateral relations.

Samaras described his talks as "very fruitful," and noted that both Athens and Tehran adopted a common approach in the analysis to the Persian Gulf crisis and other regional problems.

"We both agreed that if one wants to establish conditions that can guarantee the preservation of stable peace in the area that this will presuppose democratic evolution, first of all, within Iraq," Samaras told the press conference.

"I believe that within Iraq today there is definetly a popular uprising. The opposition seems to be united." He added.

Velayati said the turmoil in Iraq was a "real uprising with the participation of the majority of the people of Iraq. We do hope that the people of Iraq could find an opportunity to decide their own destiny."

Both Greece and Iran agreed that the territorial integrity of Iraq has to be maintained.

Samaras said that for general peace to prevail in the area other problems such as Palestine, Lebanon and the Cyprus issues have to be resolved peacefully.

Velayati expressed support for United Nations efforts to find a just and lasting solution the Cyprus problem.

He said regional cooperation formed the real basis for a regional security in the area with the participation of all countries in this region.

The Greek minister said the policy of active neutrality that Iran followed during the Persian Gulf crisis, "allows Iran to have increased obligations and possibilities in the area."

A meeting of experts from both countries will meet soon to materialize the road and transport agreement Signed in Athens last December during the visit of Iran's Housing Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni.

Referring to bilateral ties. Samaras said the two countries signed scientific and technical cooperation agreement at the end of the two rounds of talks in Tehran Tuesday.

Samaras also discussed economic issues with Kazeruni today and wednesday he is scheduled to meet Road and Transportion Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kyia.

The joint ministerial committee of the two countries will hold its first meeting in the Greek capital in June, Samaras announced.

He also referred to the issue of Greek technical companies that had undertaken works in the pre-Islamic revolution period in Iran.

"We are already in the process of sorting these problems," said the Greek foreign minister.

Representatives of Greek companies will be visiting Tehran on March 15 to discuss the possibilities of undertaking construction works in the Islamic Republic.

The two sides also discussed the possibilities of joint ventures in the sectors of aluminium industries, shipping repairing unit in the Persian Gulf, oil and natural gas.

Iran's deputy oil minister is expected to visit Athens next month. The two sides agreed to do everything to boost the low-level of trade ties.

Greece and Iran are expected soon to sign an air transport agreement and another on the mutual protection of investments.

Velayati has accepted an invitation to visit Greece sometime next calendar year (starting March 21). Iranian shipping officials are also expected to visit Athens, said the Greek official.

Samaras said he had a "very fruitful" meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

"It was not a typical meeting that a foreign minister is supposed to have. We covered both political and bilateral issues. President Rafsanjani talked a lot of the need to further improve the relations between the two countries," he said.

Holds News Conference With Velayati

NC1303075591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of Iran and Greece attended a news conference with Iranian and Greek correspondents yesterday. Our correspondent reports that during this news conference Mr. Andonios Samaras noted the common views of Iran and Greece on the Persian Gulf crisis and stressed the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and to continue peace talks to preserve security in the region.

The Greek foreign minister also lauded Iran's neutral stand on the Persian Gulf crisis. Referring to the favorable outcome of his talks with our foreign minister he said that a scientific-technical memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. He also stressed that this visit will open up a new chapter in the two countries' relations.

Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati also stated in this news conference that in his meeting with his Greek counterpart, he discussed the expansion of bilateral relations and exchanged views on the situation in Iraq, Palestine, and Cyprus.

Chinese Defense Official Begins Tehran Talks

LD1303045191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Ding Henggao, chairman of the Chinese National Defense Science, Technology, and Industry Commission, who arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation, today held his first round of talks with Akbar Torkan, minister of defense and Armed Forces logistics. In this round of talks, he said: We believe that the Persian Gulf issues must be resolved by regional states.

During the talks, Mr. Torkan elaborated on the dimensions of the Persian Gulf war and the adverse effects on the region's people, especially the Iraqi nation, and urged an early withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region.

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Arrives 13 Mar

NC1303123391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] The Zimbabwean foreign minister arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Mr. Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for Africa and the Middle East. The Zimbabwean foreign minister is to meet with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and to discuss bilateral issues and the expansion of political cooperation.

Meets With Velayati

LD1403042291 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Zimbabwean counterpart Nathan Marwirakuwa Shamuyarira in a meeting here today agreed that the Persian Gulf states should cooperate with Iran for the region's security.

Shamuyarira praised Iran's position in relation with the Persian Gulf developments and said he maintains that Iran should be involved in any Persian Gulf security plan. The Zimbabwean foreign minister also said that the United Nations should exercise control on multinational troops in the course of international crises.

Velayati and his Zimbabwean counterpart also agreed on the need for broadening the relations between Iran and Zimbabwe.

Shamuyarira on Wednesday also reviewed prospects for developing trade relations with Iran in a meeting with the Iranian commerce minister, 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji. Among the topics discussed between them was Iran's sale of tractors to Zimbabwe and the latter's export of corn to Iran, as well as cooperation in the area of agriculture, mining, oil and petrochemical industries.

The Zimbabwean foreign minister arrived in Tehran Wednesday for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart.

Oil Minister on Cooperation With USSR, Qatar

LD0603121791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The OPEC oil ministers will hold a meeting to study the oil supply and demand situation and Kuwait's and Iraq's return to the production scene and supply of oil to the international market, and ways of supporting oil prices and market stability following the end of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh also said: The OPEC oil ministers' meeting, which will be held within the framework of the ministerial committee in charge of supervising the market situation, could turn into a formal conference, if all the members agree. It is expected that during this session in Geneva all 13 members of the OPEC, including Iraq and Kuwait, will attend.

While stressing tat both the producers and consumers of oil are responsible for maintaining market and price stability, Mr. Aqazadeh criticized the international energy agency for its initial delay in replying the OPEC's request for cooperating during the early days of the Persian Gulf crisis and for releasing more oil than the market could absorb. He added: The 1990's is not an era of war between the oil producers and consumers; rather, it is an era of cooperation, compromise, and planning to meet the market's demand for oil and to stabilize its price.

Referring to the expanding role of gas in global energy consumption and the Islamic Republic of Iran's programs in this connection, the oil minister announced: The first exploration oil in a field jointly owned by Iran and Qatar is to be drilled by the Iranian off-shore oil company; and we have reached agreement with a consortium comprising Italian companies and the Soviet Union on the drilling, extraction, and transportation of gas from this joint field.

The oil minister added: It is estimated that daily production from this joint field will be 1 billion cubic feet of gas and 50,000 barrels of liquified gas; and Iran's total investment for production and transportation of gas from this field is estimated to reach $1.5 billion.

Mr. Aqazadeh went on: The Islamic Republic plans to create the necessary facilities for transferring 80 million cubic meters of Iranian gas to Europe each day; and in this connection, besides the program to extend the second gas pipeline, talks have been held with the USSR and Turkey.

Tehran To Host International Oil, Gas Meeting

LD0603142891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] In a press and radio television interview attended by domestic and foreign correspondents today, Oil Minister Aqazadeh stressed the necessity of cooperation between the producers and consumers of oil and said: The existence of over half of the world's oil resources, and the need for reconstruciton after the end of the recent crisis in this oil-rich region highlight the importance of mutual understanding and cooperation between the producers and consumers of oil. To that end, the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to host an international conference entitled: "The Future of Oil and Gas in the 1990's and the Future Outlook of "cooperation."

According to our correspondent, in this press and radio-television conference Mr. 'Abbas Malaki, deputy foreign minister in charge of educational and research affairs, said: This conference will be held with the cooperation of the National Iranian Oil Company and the Foreign Ministry International and Political Desk between the sixth and eighth of next Khordad [27 to 29 May 1991] in Esfahan. High-ranking Iranian and foreign oil experts, officials from the oil-consuming and oil-producing countries, and famous and effective world figures in the field of oil and energy will be invited to participate in the conference. He expressed his hope that the conference will lead to greater understanding and cooperation between the producers and the consumers of oil throughout the world.

Militant Clerics Group Condemns U.S. Presence

NC0803223391 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Militant Clerics Association of Tehran has issued a statement addressed to the Muslim Iranian nation and the Muslims of the world referring to the measures by the United States to extend the crisis, enumerating the attendant dangers for the nations of the region, and calling on all self-sacrificing revolutionaries of the world to attack the illicit interests of the criminal United States and the despotic Israel all over the world.

The Militant Clerics also asked the government and the Majles to condemn and combat U.S. policies.

The complete text of the statement by the Militant Clerics Association, which reached us this morning, is presented below for your perusal:

Noble and revolutionary nation of Iran, Muslims of the world! The United States and its allies have now embarked on the most unprecedented atrocities against the Muslims and the Islamic countries in the region. The crisis has reached a dangerous climax. Events in recent days have laid bare the nefarious designs of the criminal United States, and the Islamic world and the oppressed nations of the world have been faced with serious threats.

By trampling on international norms and committing aggression beyond the confines of the decisions and resolutions of the Security Council, the United States intends to dictate its illicit will not only to the region but to its own allies as well.

On the pretext of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, it has embarked on military aggression and murder of innocent people to confirm the narrow focus of its military onslaught in the arena of crimes and expansionism.

The United States opposed all kinds of efforts to attain peace. Despite Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 660, it continued its massacre of the oppressed people of that country and pillaging its resources. Even after Iraqi auhtorities officially announced the retreat and swiftly pulled out from Kuwaiti territory in several directions, the United States continues to defiantly perpetrate atrocities. By expanding the scope of its aggression and its crushing of opponents, the United States intends to topple the Iraqi Government. None of these actions conform to the mandate of the Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf crisis, and are even in contravention of all international norms and regulations. This dangerous conduct is unacceptable and intolerable for the noble people of the world and the revolutionary Iranian nation in particular.

The United States has come to impose its direct domination on the most important oil-rich, strategic, and sensitive part of the world, and to use it as a lever of pressure against nations, as well as its allies. Meanwhile, the greatest degradation has befallen the mercenary and treacherous regimes of the region, especially the corrupt Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah regimes that brought the United States to the region to defend their totally banal existence and that paid the bill for these crimes from the pockets of the oppressed nations and continue to do so.

Noble and Muslim nation of Iran, and of all the world: The greatest objective of the U.S. presence in the region, is to combat the great Islamic revolution which has inflicted irredeemable losses on the illicit interests and prestige of this superpower.

The Americans have clearly and implicitly stated that in their strategy for the region, there is no room for radicalism and Islamic fundamentalism. It would be foolish to presume that after they are relieved of the Kuwaiti saga and the issue of the Iraqi Government, they will leave all the nations of the region to their own devices. The great Iranian nation should have no doubt that if the trend of events is to continue according to the wishes of the United States, this devastating onslaught will be a mere precursor to a greater atrocity to settle accounts with Islamic Iran and to move against all kinds of independence and freedom-seeking movements in the region.

The Militant Clerics Association strongly condemns these savage atrocities. While calling for the vigilance of the esteemed government and noble Iranian nation with regard to the critical present situation, it hereby declares that:

The United States and the multinational forces should halt the war as soon as possible and should take their forces out of the region unconditionally. They should not interfere in any security plan or in the future of the region. We ask the Muslims and the revolutionary cells of the world of Islam, and in particular of the Persian Gulf region, to consolidate their ranks further and prepare themselves to attack U.S. interests in the region and all over the world. With reliance on Almighty God, the Islamic faith of the people, and the trust of the Muslims, they should cut the hands of the Archsatan away from the homeland.

In these sensitive moments, we ask the Supreme National Security Council to continue efforts and valuable decisions in view of the critical and momentous nature of the situation, deriving inspiration from the teachings and auspicious character of our late imam. Availing itself of the guidance of our lofty leader, the Council should take advantage of the opportunity to categorically make the appropriate decisions to combat the United States with all kinds of expedients and with reliance on the revolutionary strength of the great noble Iranian nation, trusting on the desire and determination of the Muslim nations to combat the dangers and sinister plans of the United States and to ensure the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslim ummah.

We request the esteemed Majles and the revered government to condemn the policies of the criminal United

States in every possible way and to combat it and suitably declare their own and their nation's indignation over the continued crimes perpetrated by the United States.

We want the mass media to expose the sinister schemes of the criminal United States and to expose the repulsive visage of the affiliated lackey regimes. They should unmask the sinister objectives of the aggressors in the region and they should not hesitate to acquaint the public in this regard. In these sensitive moments, they should be the instrument for the manifestation of the determination, faith, and aspirations of the revolutionary and anti-arrogance Iranian nation.

We ask the honorable Armed Forces and dear Basijis [mobilization forces] to be more vigilant of the situation than ever before, and to attain and maintain the necessary readiness for the defense of the gains of the Islamic revolution and the revolutionary homeland of Iran.

We ask all the self-sacrificing revolutionaries all over the world to attack the illicit interests of the criminal United States and the despotic Israel everywhere, and to have faith in divine succor, because victory comes from God [preceding four words in Arabic]. We beseech Almighty God for the victory of the Islamic revolution, the pride of the Islamic ummah, and the destruction of the enemies of Islam.

Ahmad Khomeyni Warns of U.S. 'Conspiracy'

LD1303182891 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpts] A number of personnel from the management council and the publicity office of the Qom Seminarian Society, Friday prayers leaders from Qom and Mashhad governorates, foreign seminarians in Iran, women students from the Shahrud Teachers Training Center, as well as a large number of the Hezbollah ummah today met withHojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the immaculate tomb of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. [passage omitted]

In his speech Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the widespread uprising by the people of Iraq is a result of the fact that the Islamic revolution extends worldwide. He added: Today the Islamic revolution covers the whole world. The people of Iraq are defending the kind of Islam which Iman Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, founded with the revolution. The people of Iraq are enduring all these sufferings and pressures because they want to be ruled by Islamic edicts. If today we hear demands for Islam in oppressed Africa and in victimized Palestine and Iraq, it is because of the existence of support for revolutionary Islam in Iran. [passage omitted]

At the end of his speech he said that the U.S. conspiracy to get the regime occupying Jerusalem recognized by the Arab countries is a serious danger to the future of the Palestinian revolution. He stated: Having destroyed the economic resources of Kuwait and Iraq and having killed the people of the region, the United States is now determined to impose the issues of the recognizing the Zionist regime on the Arabs and the peoples of the Middle East region. The Zionist regime is the uncompromising enemy of Muslims, and any compromise by Muslims with Israel, the U.S. agent, will be rejected.

Reward for Killing Rushdie Reportedly Doubled

LD0503203291 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—'The Satanic Verses' authored by the apostate Salman Rushdie is only the "tip of an elaborate plot against the Islamic revolution," Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni the son of the late Imam Khomeyni has said. "Global arrogance and other enemies of Islam having failed to eliminate this divine revolution with money or through political and military means are trying to do so with instruments," he added.

Hoj. Khomeyni made the remarks in his speech to the concluding session of a 3-day seminar to study the dynamism of the death verdict against the apostate British author pronounced by the father of the Islamic revolution on 14th February 1989. As per divine laws the death sentence against the Indian born Rushdie who blasphemed Islam and its prophets in his novel cannot be revoked, because any repentance on the part of an apostate born into a Muslim family is a matter solely concerning afterlife and divine grace depending upon the sincerity of intention.

Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi clarified the above to the seminar Monday saying: "Hundreds of books are published (around the globe) against Islamic beliefs but no death sentence is passed against their authors. As for 'The Satanic Verses', it not only ridicules Islamic beliefs but is also an insult to Islam and its sanctities." He termed the publishing of the blasphemous novel a "political work and something against Islamic security."

The seminar ended work with a resolution making it clear that the late imam's ruling against Rushdie is "irrevocable" and urged those professing divine creeds around the world to carry out the decree.

On Sunday, head of the 15th Khordad Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Sane'i announced at the seminar that the price on Rushdie's head has been "doubled to two million dollars." Shortly after the late imam's verdict, the 15th Khordad Foundation announced that it would reward one million dollars to anyone who could execute the ruling. The foundation said in its latest statement that it will reward two million dollars to anybody "even if he or she is from among Rushdie's associates, neighbours or bodyguards", for bringing the apostate to justice.

Majles Ratifies Abbreviations in Armed Forces

LD1003123991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Excerpt] At today's open session of the Majles, chaired by Mr Karrubi, the bill pertaining to employment regulations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was debated in the second sitting; three of its clauses were ratified. On the basis of the first clause, the abbreviated title of General Command [Farmandehi e Kol] will be used instead of the General Command of the Armed Forces; the Joint Staff [setad e kol] instead of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; Guards [sepah] instead of the Islamic Revolutiony Guards Corps; the Armed Forces instead of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the ministry [vezarat] instead of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; and the Army instead of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army.

On the basis of the second clause, the Armed Forces will comprise the Guards, the Army and the Security Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Officials Inaugurate Gorgan Radio, TV Facility

LD0703130191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] The new premises of the Voice and Vision center in Gorgan was commissioned this morning at a ceremony attended by the director general of the Voice and Vision Organization [VVO], Mr. Mohammad Hashemi; the representative of guardian of the Muslims' cause in the region and the Friday imam of Gorgan, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nurmofidi; the deputy of the people of Mazandaran Province in the Assembly of Experts, Mr Taheri; and some officials of this province.

The equipment at this center, which is the best equipped radio station in Iran after Tehran, includes six studios, and editing and listening rooms, which were erected during a 12-month period by the unit in charge of expanding studios. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Hashemi stressed the need for more efforts to confront the cultural onslaught of the West. The manager of the Gorgan center, welcoming the guests, also said this center, by using the existing facilities will produce 2,200 hours of radio programs in the coming year to promote Islamic culture. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi added that the VVO is the establishment closest to the leadership of the state: In Islamic society, the mass media have a role in the world and are a means of expanding and promoting Islamic values. He added that Islamic values can best be presented by using art. The VVO's top role is art, and through the language of art it can describe issues to the public more eloquently.

Another mission of the VVO is to make Iran an example, on the basis of the Islamic principles and values of the revolution, so other Islamic countries can imitate this resolution, which is named the mother of the Islamic revolutions in the world.

The VVO director general pointed out that through cooperation the people of the region and the province can make this center a big radio-television center for news and feature program.

* Secret Police Begin Patrols in Tehran

91AS0605B London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] An undercover secret police patrol in civilian clothes and cars with civilian license plates began operation in Tehran this week. In this patrol, the special police forces, the investigative office and the traffic police, each of which have independent operational commands, carry out their duties.

Brigadier General Omidiyan, the Tehran police chief, explained the activities of this patrol and said: "The basic characteristic of this force is that it has a strong operational center in which all the information concerning the activities of the criminals are collected through the investigative office and the police." This police patrol is called "Dawn."

* Consultant to Atomic Energy Agency Appointed

91AS0605D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 16 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] In a decree issued by Engineer Reza Amrollahi, the vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Agency of Iran, Professor Fazlollah Reza was appointed the scientific consultant of this agency and began his duties.

Professor Fazlollah Reza is a distinguished international scientific figure and a eminent professor, who has been the chancellor of distinguished universities in the world and the University of Tehran.

In a decree issued by Engineer Naraqi, the general manager of the communication company, Seyyed Mehdi Shoja'i-Borhan was appointed head of the auditing office of the communication company and began his duties.

Mohammad Mehdi Mahmudi was appointed the director general of the office of the affairs of nonprofit schools through a decree issued by the minister of education.

* New 10th Army Commander, Budget Official Named

91AS0605E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 23 Jan 91 p 4

[Excerpt] The commander of the ground forces of the Guards Corps appointed Mohammad Reza Shabani as the new commander of the 10th Army of Nabi-ye Akram.

In a decree by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Kazem Akbari was appointed as the chief of staff for organization and budget of this agency. [passage omitted]

* Ruzbehani Appointed to Oppressed Foundation

91AS0605F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAI in Persian 13 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] In a decree by the head of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled [Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan va Janbazan], 'Ali Hasan-e Ruzbehani was appointed deputy director for the affairs of the deprived and the downtrodden of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled.

In a decree by Engineer Naraqi, the general manager of the communications company, 'Abd-Khezr Kamrani was appointed deputy director for planning and budget of the Iranian communication company.

'Abdol-Samad Gharavi was appointed deputy director for economic affairs of the national retirement agency and began his duties. This decree was issued by 'Ezzatollah Dehqan, deputy to the secretary general of the administrative and employment agency and head of the national retirement agency.

* Mostafavi Receives New Appointment 13 Feb

91AS0605G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAI in Persian 13 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] In a decree by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, Mehdi Mostafavi was appointed support deputy for political affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The office of information and news of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced this appointment and added: Mehdi Mostafavi has previously been head of the Western European office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Commentary Views Possible Post-Saddam Scenarios

NC1203012691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Feb 91 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed commentary: "Iraq's Future and the West's Concerns"]

[Excerpts] With the peaking of the war in recent days and the commencement of the ground assault by anti-Iraqi forces on Kuwait, efforts are under way on the sidelines to take the necessary preliminary measures to fill the power vacuum that might be created with the toppling of Saddam.

The hiatus in power that may come about is a source of serious apprehension in the West. The issue is clearly visible between the lines of what Western officials say. The main concerns can be divided into three general categories:

1. Territorial claims by regional powers.
2. Agitation, disarray, possible dismemberment and secession.
3. Inability to set up a stable regime in Iraq.

Perhaps the greatest source of anxiety for the West and for regional reactionaries in the post-Saddam era are the claims countries in the region are making of controlling parts of Iraqi territory. This anxiety has been present even in the early days of the crisis. [passage omitted]

The second source of concern for the United States and Britain is the surfacing of unrest, pillage, and, in a words, civil strife in Iraq. Moreover, it is being predicted that the strife may spread and civil war may result.

There is this deep-rooted idea in the West that as soon as Saddam is eliminated, the Ba'th Party will collapse, and "it is possible that a vacuum may be created in the Iraqi power cells which may culminate in the disintegration of the administrative system and result in utter chaos."

Early this month, Radio Cologne stressed that "the general consensus is that Iraq should be so weakened after the war that it should not be able to pose a danger to neighboring states. On the other hand, Iraq should not become so weak that utter chaos and disarray will prevail, as in Lebanon." [passage omitted]

In such conditions, the rebellious groups in Iraq may gain control of various parts of Iraq and establish their governments. One must not overlook groups such as the Kurds, who have been nurturing longstanding hopes of autonomy and the right to forge their independent destiny. The existence of these hopes among the opponents of the regime strengthen the fears of secession and anarchy. In an interview with correspondents, Jalal Talebani, the leader of the Iraqi National Front of Iraqi Kurdistan, and the leaders of the Kurdistan Front, which is made up of five factions, have called for the creation of a "minor Kurdistan" following the Persian Gulf war.

The third source of dread for the West following Saddam's elimination is the emergence of "an unstable regime" in Iraq. This fear, which can also be considered another facet of concern number two, stems from the fact that despite a variety of measures and all sorts of prior speculation on the future of Iraq—which has served to unite the opposition groups in spite of their ideological differences—there is no complete faith in the depth or firmness of such a coalition. [passage omitted]

As can be perceived, these anxieties are not too far removed from the West's attention and they feature in its planning and concerns. It would be too simpleminded to think that the West has not pondered the necessary preliminaries in this regard and has not taken the required decisions.

U.S. Silence on Iraq Uprising Criticized

LD1403104491 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Thursday wrote that the current bloody incidents in Iraq are the natural consequences of sufferings of the Iraqi people in the past three decades. The Iraqis are so fed up that they welcome death as a blessing, said the Persian daily's weekly political analysis. It is totally unfair to portray the uprising of the oppressed nation who have risen against tyranny as one "linked to outside." A review of the contemporary history of Iraq testifies that such a large-scale revolt is unprecedented. Knowing beforehand that the Iraqi regime would resort to the most brutal practices to suppress the uprising, the Iraqi people see no alternative but to counter it even at the cost of their lives.

Describing the stand of the U.S. and other oppressive powers as 'totally inhuman', JOMHURI said had they seen the uprising in their interest, they would have undoubtedly supported it. However, the criminal U.S. not only is calling the uprising a 'disturbance' but is also dictating the Baghdad government to suppress the uprising in the south first and then move to the north to silence the Kurds.

Stating that in the oil war the U.S. mainly targetted the oppressed people of Iraq, the daily said that it was neither to the interest of the U.S. nor the Baghdad regime to disclose the scope and dimension of war crimes in Iraq.

The deliberate Iraqi silence towards the U.S. crimes against the Iraqis has now paid off—the U.S. in return has chosen to remain silent about the Iraqi Government crimes against the Iraqi nation. It has even gone beyond and is encouraging the regime in its atrocities against the Iraqi masses. The daily concluded that the Baghdad regime has launched a full scale genocide to silence any voice of protest and abort any movement so that no word is uttered against the regime and no protest is made.

Saddam Urged To Acquiesce to People's Will

LD1303090191 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Any rash analysis about Iraq's status quo by either foreign powers, the regimes of the region or the Iraqi Ba'thist regime would only lead to further deviation, said 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' daily Wednesday.

Stating that the Iraqi regime has made at least three strategic blunders over the past decade which has placed it on the verge of collapse, the daily's editorial referred to the present popular uprising in Iraq and said, "Now again, the choice is the Baghdad regime's. The people of Iraq want a popular government committed to restoring peace, security and freedom."

Believing that the ruling regime in Iraq can decide between "suppression" and "submission", it wrote, "by suppressing the people's uprising it may be able to hold up a change in the ruling administration but the right option is for Saddam Husayn to surrender to the will of his people."

The English daily predicting that a change of regime in Iraq is inevitable added that "overlooking the will of the people can lead the Iraqi Government to committing another strategic blunder."

The paper ruled out the possibility of Iraq's disintegration under the present conditions believing that "The West would not favor an Iraqi disintegration now as it would need the Ba'th Party [words indistinct].

Editorial Notes Saddam's Political 'Blunder'

NC0703210791 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Refusal To Renounce Claim on Kuwait a Mistake"]

[Text] In an open about turn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in a 25-minute nationwide radio address declared the withdrawal of his troops from Kuwait. The Iraqi leader in his address emphasized that the pullout will be completed in one day.

It is very unfortunate that Saddam Husayn did not clearly renounce his claims on Kuwait despite his announcement to completely withdraw from the emirate.

He made a strategic political blunder in occupying Kuwait on 2d Aug., and therefore was finally forced to leave that country. Moreover, the assessment of political observers that the Iraqi leader, following the recent developments will gain the necessary political wisdom not to repeat similar mistake. [sentence as published]

Saddam's expansionist desires during the past decade has wreaked havoc and led to great instability in the region. Furthermore, his intentions gave the Western countries especially the U.S. the pretext to deploy their forces in the strategically sensitive Persian Gulf region.

For sure, the Iraqi war machine has suffered greatly since the outbreak of war on Feb. 17. If Baghdad listened to peace-loving and good-intentioned world leaders such as President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Iraq would not have been entangled in such a situation as it finds itself in today. Now, history is being repeated again. The Iraqi regime, before it faces complete destruction, must surrender its claims to Kuwaiti territory, a claim which has no firm legal basis.

Saddam should understand that if the basis for determining borders were old historical claims, the whole world should burn in wars today.

The particularly ambiguous part of Saddam's speech relating to Kuwait will cause a continuation and even acceleration of the allied forces' attacks against Iraq or, if owing to public opinion pressure fighting is stopped, the U.S. will hold on to its statement as a pretext to justify their presence in the region.

Saddam should by now have learned a very good lesson through the Persian Gulf developments as they have unfolded thus far not permit his mistakes which caused the deployment of alien forces in the region to be compounded and now lead to a greater blunder by giving them the pretext to secure foothold in the region. [sentence as published] Saddam should not put the interests of the regional countries and inviolate principles of self-determination at stake in his desire to become a hero.

Editorial Examines Role of UN Security Council

NC0703210991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Crisis Resolution Up to Security Council, Not U.S."]

[Text] Despite the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the crisis in the Persian Gulf has not been as yet fully resolved and the multi-national forces are still stationed on Iraqi borders. A review of the Persian Gulf crisis may briefly be set out in three different stages.

First, was the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces and this was met by worldwide reaction, against Iraq as a violator of international regulations, and was strongly condemned by international bodies. In spite of international pressures and global sanctions against Iraq and severe threats by certain countries to exert force and resort to military measures, Iraq insisted on remaining in Kuwait.

The second stage, like the first stage since it also approximated to invasion, was expected to be effective and started with the massive presence of the U.S.-led allied forces. Constant blows on residential quarters and civilian areas as well as industrial and military units forced Iraq to retreat from Kuwait. It should be noted that diplomatic efforts to convince Iraq to accept U.N. Security Council's resolutions and thus withdraw from Kuwait by certain countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the reaction of the world public opinion against massacre of the Iraqi people were to a great extent, effective in this connection.

No doubt, infringement of international regulations during the war, mainly the massacre of civilians by the allied forces led by the U.S., cannot be forgotten in this crisis.

The third stage started from the time Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw from Kuwait. Although apparently it seems that the crisis has been resolved. It will remain potentially threatening no doubt and might entail new developments if the multi-national forces do not evacuate the region.

Obviously, in order to put an end to the crisis and prevent creation of new forms of it, all the world countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a powerful country in the region, which had not only preserved an impartial stand vis-a-vis the war but actively took part in a peace diplomacy along with other countries and international organizations, should embark on extensive diplomacy while taking new conditions of the crisis into account and must have for its objective the need to rein in the crisis and see an end to it once and for all.

Moreover, it is desirable in the extreme to pay attention to the importance of the preservation of peace and security in the region and take into account the necessity to form a regional security system in order to prevent future crises. Regional countries should practically embark on speedy, active and independent diplomacy in this connection. Therefore, we will as a result witness a regional security system in the future which is designed by the regional states themselves. In the third stage and in the process of the normalization of the situation, and in the light of the responsibilities of the U.N. Security Council it is expected that the region would witness a more expanded activity as a consequence. It is not up to the U.S. to define the terms on which this should be done and take matters into its own hands.

Commentary Views Syria's Strengthened Position

LD0603232991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Commentary in "The World of Politics" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Earlier, Syria played no role in any of the peace equations. What caused Syria not to have any place in those equations was not only its political position on the Palestinians and the Israeli regime; before that, the geographical position of the country in connection with resolving the crisis was the major factor in that country's being ignored.

The fundamental problem for Syria is the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights. Syria considers the return of the Golan Heights as the least it would request in any peace plan which considers a role for it. But the strategic position of the Golan Heights and the definite annexation of that region to the occupied Palestine regime's territory makes a plan for the return of that region an extraordinary difficult issue. But as the result of the Persian Gulf crisis and the position of Syria in cooperation with the coalition forces, against Iraq, Syria's position has been strengthened in many respects.

In the first place, Syria, as a member of the coalition forces and a major Arab force in legitimizing the presence of Western forces in the region, now expects some

privileges on the basis of adopting such a policy. Moreover, as the result of the weakening of Iraq, a role has now been reserved for Syria in the region's security plans. Syria together with Egypt are considered the two major sides in the establishment of a security plan, alongside the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Moreover, since black clouds covered the skies of the region as a result of the Persian Gulf war, Syria has managed to gain the greatest possible advantage of the situation in resolving its problems in Lebanon. From the weakest possible position that one can imagine during the months prior to the commencement of the Persian Gulf war, Syria now holds the strongest position in Lebanon and has removed most of the obstacles facing it. [passage omitted]

In any case, alongside the strengthened positions of America and Israel and the change of the balance of power to those countries' advantage, other factors have entered the regional equation, making the situation more ambigious. Regarding those factors, political experts believe that at least from the point of view of America and Israel, the present is not the best time for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, even if other sides have different points of view.

Commentary on UN's 'Tepid' Performance in Gulf

NC0603143691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait generated different kinds of reaction among international organizations and governments. In its capacity as a pillar for the establishment and support of international peace, the United Nations condemned Iraq, calling for its immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and for the preservation of the international boundaries between the two countries. On the day after the crisis began, the United Nations issued Resolution 660, which called for Iraq's immediate pullout from Kuwait.

Up to the outbreak of the war, legitimized in Resolution 678, the Security Council adopted 11 other resolutions imposing miscellaneous trade, air, and naval sanctions on Iraq. In its last resolution on the liberation of Kuwait, the United Nations authorized resorting to all measures. Even though all these resolutions were ostensibly adopted by the Security Council with the support of the international community, it is clear that the permanent Security Council members, especially the United States, played an important part in this regard.

The United Nations displayed an appropriate reaction to the aggression and condemned it. Even though Iraqi civilians were the victims of force and violence in contravention of the UN Charter and international legal norms, no international organization made a serious protest in this regard. Military operations were initiated against Iraq under the auspices of Security Council Resolution 678 at a time when most political analysts believed that following the dismemberment of the Eastern bloc and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, as well as a loosening of NATO foundations, the United Nations would emerge as an important pillar of recourse to resolve differences between countries.

In light of the UN's tepid performance in preventing the outbreak of the war and in settling the crisis peacefully, its credibility and importance has waned as a focus for recourse for problems of international peace and security. The UN's international effectiveness since its inception in protecting world peace and in reducing military conflict has not met with complete success. In most cases, hostile governments violated international accords and displayed indifference to UN pleas.

Moreover, despite regulations and tenets based on equality and impartiality, the United Nations has not displayed much efficiency because of the influence imposed by the greater powers. Its decisionmaking in two instances in the Iran-Iraq war and in the Persian Gulf crisis is evidence of the pressures and the forced views imposed on this important world organization and its decisions.

In any case, the United Nations failed to avert the war on the basis of the principles and objectives stipulated in its charter. It is hoped that in the new world order, in the aftermath of the cold war, it will play a more active role; otherwise, the peace and stability of the world will be prone to even greater and more serious dangers.

Commentary on European-American Differences

NC1203085091 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Now that the flames of the regional war have died down, differences among the members of the allied forces and especially between the two major factions—Western Europe and America—on regional security and the future form of world order are once again coming to light.

Iraq's great defeat by the American-led allied forces placed major problems in front of Europe's position on the international scene and in the future world order. Even though this may seem surprising, as Europe was one of the major sides of the anti-Iraqi alliance and is apparently a partner in the victory that has been scored, nevertheless political experts believe that the allied victory in the war, which has intensified American domination in the region and especially among the Arab regimes, cannot conform with the policy of Western Europe, which will be acting as America's rival in the future.

Meanwhile, in a quick glance at Europe's position from the beginning of the crisis to the end, one can easily see

how Europe—led by France—propounded several significant initiatives in which the granting of concessions to Iraq was also observed in a bid to prevent the war. With Iraq's unfavorable reaction, however, all the efforts by the major European countries failed. This will be recorded as one of the major defeats in the history of united Europe's diplomacy.

It should be noted that this crisis was created when a united Europe was in the process of being formed with the efforts of EEC members and which still lacks the necessary strength to adopt a common policy and control crises like the recent one. One of the main characteristics of a bloc or a major power in the world is having a common military and defense system and common policy- making—something which united Europe still lacks. And even though these countries tried at first—by activating the West European Union which is a completely European military pact—to fill this vacuum, this organization nevertheless proved it could not carry out the duty it was assigned when it came to action. Therefore, the European countries, which were reluctant from the very outset of the crisis to being placed under American command in the Persian Gulf, ultimately assigned America the task of commanding their forces once the possibility of a military conflict intensified.

Actually, this crisis inflicted a heavy blow on Europe's independence-seeking movement, and overcoming this blow will need the efforts and strong determination of the members of the European community. Moreover, analysts say that world public opinion is believing more and more in the idea of a single-pole world, and, naturally, Europe's international standing may weaken. This view is seen in the softening of France's position on the need to convene an international conference to resolve Middle East problems and its proposal instead to convene a conference consisting of the 15 heads of the Security Council members to discuss the establishment of peace in the Middle East and the French officials' emphasis on the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations as a world forum ensuring world stability.

Experts believe that Saddam was not America's sole target in this war, but that its major rivals—that is, a united Europe and the Soviet Union—were also targets to a large extent, because the command of the operations, the setting of various preconditions for ending the war, and the rejection of proposals that were propounded by other countries portrayed America as an absolute dictator in this crisis; and the participation of the other countries was merely a facade to legalize an offensive which America intended to carry out.

Western Europe, which was unable to prevent the war, is now trying to assume a significant role in the search for a solution to the Palestinian and Lebanese crises and in the future of Iraq. Facts show, however, that in this phase America intends to seize the initiative, and that if regional problems are to be solved they should be solved by American hands with Western Europe benefiting as little as possible from this political success.

As to what impact this American conduct toward its European partners will have on the process of uniting Europe and on the new world order and what role the Soviet Union will play in all this, are all significant issues which should be discussed separately.

Commentary Views Soviet Role in Gulf Crisis

NC1303172591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Central News Unit's Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Even though the recent war is classified as a regional war, nevertheless some experts on international relations believe that the impact this war had on world policy was comparable to that of a world war. Its repercussions are so extensive that all its aspects cannot be studied in one or even several commentaries. Therefore, we will only to discuss the role played by the Soviet Union in this crisis and the political impact this crisis had on the Soviet Union.

Even though the Soviet Union had long ago set aside its world claims, nevertheless its superpower prestige continued to exist to some extent. Up until the crisis, some countries still recognized the Soviet Union as being on the same level as America, at least as far as influencing world policy was concerned. The recent crisis, however, has almost erased this view of the Soviet superpower image, at least under the current conditions.

Meanwhile, it should be noted that Iraq was considered a Soviet ally and most of its arms had been supplied by the Soviet Union. But in the rivalry between Soviet and Western weapons—except for Iraq's surface-to-surface missiles that lacked military value—one can indeed say that the Soviet weapons proved to have the lowest degree of effectiveness; this inflicted a significant blow on that country's military situation. This is not, however, the only reason for Iraq's failure. Other more important reasons were the low morale of the Iraqi soldiers and the absence of a motive for confrontation.

Of course, the negative impact of this crisis on the Soviet Union was not limited to the above points. The question is: Can it be said that the Soviet Union was a complete loser in this crisis? In answer, one can say that even though it appears the Soviet Union did not attain any important goals, in one respect this crisis played a noteworthy role in obliterating the harsh and aggressive image that Western propaganda had painted of the Soviet Union during the past few decades, even though this image had somewhat started to fade with the new leadership in the Soviet Union and with the developments in Eastern Europe.

Also, the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact as the symbol of terror in Europe and at the peak of the Persian Gulf war can hardly be a coincidence and should be seen as a means of conveying the fact that the Soviet Union should never be considered a military threat to the West, and especially to Europe.

Political experts believe that by avoiding a direct confrontation with the West, which could rapidly fan the flames of another cold war and which would also be very costly, the Soviet Union is trying, in this phase at least, to act as a catalyst in future relations between America and a united Europe. At the same time, it is encouraging these countries to participate more actively in Soviet reconstruction so that it can emerge from the passive stance it adopted to attract economic assistance from the West, to become an active and effective element on the European scene and, by extension, in the world.

Tehran Allegedly Buying Arms From Czechoslovakia

TA1303125091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Czechoslovakia's foreign minister went to Tehran to sign an agreement for the sale of the Soviet model T-72 tanks and other military equipment to the Islamic Republic in return for the purchase of 10 million tons of oil annually.

Following the overthrow of the communist regime, Czechoslovakia announced that it would not sell arms to the Third World. But in the face of the Islamic Republic regime's insistence in purchasing Soviet weapons and Czechoslovakia's need for oil, the Government of Czechoslovakia finally agreed to sign this agreement.

The Islamic Republic regime is buying Soviet model weapons at a time when, in the war between Iraq and the multinational forces, these weapons have demonstrated that they are no match for Western weapons of superior technology. With this decision, the Islamic Republic regime is, in fact, throwing away the Iranian nation's wealth and not providing for the urgent needs of the Iranian Army.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Congress Party Defeats Left in Association Polls

BK1003111491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 10 (AFP)—Nepali Congress Party supporters have defeated leftist rivals in polls for governing bodies of three professional groups in what is seen as an important test ahead of the May 12 general elections.

Congress Party supporters beat candidates backed by the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist Leninist faction) to win all 21 seats on the governing body of the Nepal University Teachers' Association (NUTA), which represents faculty members at Nepal's 142 colleges.

Students and university teachers played an important role in demonstrations that led to the re-introduction of democracy after 30 years of the partyless Panchayat system of government. Observers here say the victory for the congress supporters is important because some 80,000 students are at colleges dominated by NUTA members.

Meanwhile Devendra Prasad Upadhyay, a pro-Nepali Congress candidate, won the election for president of the Nepal Teachers' Association (NTA) Central Executive Committee. Another Nepali Congress supporter, Dr. Hemang Dixit, recently won an election to head the all Nepal Medical Association.

Political observers said the elections were significant because they gave an indication of where middle class support in the country lay.

Bhattarai Issues Party's Election Manifesto

BK1403103691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] In Nepal, the prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, reiterated his government's commitment to hold free and fair elections in the country. Mr. Bhattarai, who is also the acting president of the ruling Nepali Congress, was addressing a news conference in Kathmandu this morning after releasing his party's manifesto for the elections scheduled for the 12th of May this year. The manifesto says that the Nepali Congress stands committed to world peace, democracy, and human rights and wants to have friendly relations with both India and China. It urged [as heard] that the party will work for the consolidation of democratic institutions and establishment of independent judiciary.

Answering a question, Mr. Bhattarai said that the international observers have been invited to observe the elections.

Nepali Congress Leader Receives Peace Award

BK1403003391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 13 (AFP)—The supreme leader of the Nepali Congress Party, Ganesh Man Singh, was awarded the U Thant peace award here Wednesday in recognition of his commitment to peace in the struggle for greater democracy in Nepal.

The award was presented by U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Julia Chang Bloch on behalf of the Chinmoy Peace Mediation Committee, an association of United Nations staff, members of delegations and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

"The achievement of democracy alone is not enough as we have to protect it as well and translate the democratic ideals into our day-to-day life and personal behaviour," Mr. Singh told a packed hall at the Royal Nepal Academy. Mr. Singh's Nepali Congress spearheaded a

two-month popular campaign that resulted in the abolition of Nepal's one-party system last April. The award, established in 1972, was named for late U.N. Secretary General U Thant.

Finance Minister Submits Supplementary Budget

BK1303161391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 12 (AFP)—Nepalese Finance Minister Devendra Raj Singh submitted a 5.826 billion rupee (180.6 billion dollar) supplementary budget to the Council of Ministers for approval Tuesday, state radio reported.

A senior Finance Ministry official said 5.238 billion rupees (162.4 million dollars) was earmarked for development expenses, including paying off bad debts, and the remaining 588 million rupees (18.23 million dollars) was for general and election expenses. The funds will come from "the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and also from mobilising internal resources through the sale of various bonds and bank loans", the official said.

The government said it would pay about three billion rupees (93 million dollars) to two ailing commercial banks hit by state firms defaulting on government-backed loans. Nepal Bank Ltd. and the Rastriya Banijya Bank (National Commercial Bank) are facing financial problems because of the failure of several state-run corporations to pay back loans totalling two billion rupees (62 million dollars). "The repayment of the loans by the government will help these banks gain the confidence of international banks and also help to arrange adequate cash reserves needed for risk funds" the Finance Ministry official said.

Expenses for elections slated for May 12 and for pay raises for school teachers were included in the budget, the official said.

Nepal's interim government announced its main budget for 1990/1991 in July.

Students, Police Clash; Seven Persons Injured

BK0903102491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP)—At least seven people were seriously injured in a clash between students and local police in the southwest Nepal township of Nepalgunj, state radio reported Saturday.

Local college students staged a protest march Friday shouting anti-government slogans and accusing police of taking unfair reprisals against landless settlers there, the radio said.

The injured were admitted to the local hospital in the industrial township 430 kilometres (260 miles) southwest of here, it said.

Several hundred college students and youths went to the district administration office and demanded strong actions against police. The building was damaged in the brawl, and the local market and transport services were closed for the rest of friday, a police source said.

The landless people of Gijara village had since Monday been picketing the district office demanding the release of fellow activists arrested last month at Nawalparasi, 290 kilometres (180 miles) southwest of here, on charges of pelting police with stones.

The students objected after police used batons to disperse the picketers, who are among the 16,000 people to lose their land through floods and landslides in the country's mountainous region.

Squatting in lowland forests, they are seeking free land allocations so they can earn their livelihood.

Pakistan

Killer of Iranian Diplomat Sentenced to Death

BK1303153691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 13 (AFP)—A special court for the suppression of terrorism sentenced to death Wednesday a young Pakistani for the murder last December of the Iranian diplomat, Sadiq Ganji, court officials said.

Sheikh Haq Nawaz, in his late 20s, was awarded the death sentence for killing Mr. Ganji, director of the Iranian Cultural Centre, on December 19, 1990 in front of an international hotel here.

Seven others implicated in the murder were sentenced to life imprisonment—two in absentia—by the tribunal in this provincial capital of Punjab, the officials said.

All eight were believed to be members of Anjuman Sipah-i-Sahaba (ASS), a Sunni fundamentalist group opposed to Shiite Muslims, who make up the majority in Iran but are a minority in Pakistan.

The eight will have the right to appeal against the sentences in the Lahore High Court.

The murder of Mr. Ganji, who was about to return to Iran after a three-year stay in Pakistan, appeared to be in revenge for the assassination of ASS founder Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi in February 1990.

The Iranian authorities and some Shiite groups had demanded a ban on the ASS.

Three weeks after the murder of Mr. Ganji, an ASS leader and National Assembly member, Maulana Esarul Qasmi, was shot dead during a by-election near the Punjabi town of Jhang, the ASS power base.

This murder sparked sectarian clashes in Jhang, where more than 20 people have been killed and dozens injured in sporadic violence during the past year.

Islamabad Radio Report

BK1303163091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] All the eight persons accused of assassinating Aqai Sadiq Ganji, former director general of Iranian Cultural Center, were convicted by the special antiterrorist court headed by Mr. Mohammad Aslam Shami in Lahore today. The main accused, Haq Nawaz, has been awarded death sentence while other accused have been sentenced to life terms. Six accused—Safiullah, Mohammad Hanif, Mohammad Arif, Mohammad Hussain alias Kaka, Haq Nawaz, and Wasim Aslam—faced the trial in the court, whereas two absconders—Ejaz Batra and Javed Ahmed—were tried in absentia. Aqai Sadiq Ganji was shot dead on the 19th of December last in Lahore.

Paper Opposes Platt as New U.S. Ambassador

BK1303144091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Mar 91 p 6

[Shireen M. Mazari article: "America's New Pakistan Agenda"]

[Text] The news that U.S. Ambassador Oakley's successor is to be Ambassador Platt (presently in the Philippines) should be viewed with concern by Pakistan. Apart from being a New York Jew, Ambassador Platt was identified as a CIA agent and throughout 1989 this issue was highlighted in the Philippine print media with Philippine Senators like Wigberto Tanada demanding Ambassador Platt's expulsion—DAILY GLOBE 2nd May 1989.

Ambassador Platt went to the Philippines in August 1987 and has no doubt aided in the defeat of at least half a dozen coup attempts against President Aquino. The most serious coup attempt, in December 1989, led to overt U.S. interference with American Air Force planes being used to suppress the attempt.

Ambassador Platt is termed an Asian specialist having spent a number of years in South East Asia—as a Chinese language student in Taiwan (1963), Political Officer in Hong Kong (1954-68), Beijing (1973-74) and Tokyo (1974-77). He was also Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence in 1980-81 with responsibilities for the Asian region. Interestingly enough, he was U.S. Ambassador in Zambia in 1982-84—one of the few African countries with a Chinese linkage.

Given the CIA connection and the pattern of his service record, his coming to Pakistan has ominous overtones. For a start, before those who look towards the United States for succor panic, the appointment of Platt is a clear signal that the Americans are not in the process of abandoning Pakistan. On the contrary, it seems that in the wake of their military success in the Gulf, they are now moving to consolidate their grip in neighbouring regions like South Asia. After all, their Grand Design or New World Order is not limited to the confines of the Gulf.

A new U.S.-India linkage is already emerging with high-level exchange of views at bilateral forums, the refuelling of American military planes in India during the Gulf War, and the sale of sophisticated U.S. electronic technology to India. However, a major impediment in this new American access into South Asia is that rare streak of defiance shown by Pakistan over its nuclear programme. The issue has ben aggravated because the overt U.S. pressure on Pakistan has not only made the issue highly visible within Pakistan, but it has aided the growth of a pervasive anti-Americanism amongst the populace.

Such situations are not new for the U.S. They have managed popular hostility by keeping the ruling elites suitably compliant. What has made the situation in Pakistan uncomfortable for them is their growing perception that the negative public perception of the U.S. is increasingly shared by an important segment of the ruling elite—the Pakistan military. In addition, the military leadership has now publicly come out in support of a nuclear option for Pakistan.

While the civilian leadership in Pakistan dithers over critically examining the politico-strategic repercussions of the Gulf and continues to maintain an ambivalent posture on the nuclear issue, the military leadership has come out clearly with its analysis on the strategic implications of the Gulf crisis and the manner of its resolution, as well as a rationalisation for the nuclear option. On both these points, the U.S. finds itself at odds with this powerful segment of Pakistan's ruling elite. It also realises that this could undermine its influence and strategic designs in this region—especially since India's price for cooperation with the U.S. must inclue American assurances relating to Pakistan's strategic subservience and abandonment of its nuclear option.

For the U.S., the public antagonism in Pakistan is seen as manageable, but erosion of support within a powerful section of the ruling elite is being viewed as a grave threat. To counter this, the U.S. has, it seems, opted for creating a cleavage between the civilian and military elites in the hope of weakening the power of the latter. One way that this is being done is through a subtle disinformation campaign where the public is being led to believe that the military is nursing political ambitions. The Americans in Islamabad are also carefully orchestrating a campaign to draw negative similarities between Iraq's Saddam Husayn and Pakistan's army chief.

Within this context, it is obvious that the U.S. has felt the need to have a man heading the embassy who is a specialist in clandestine activity and civil-military relations. The new ambassador-designate is ideally suited.

By successfully putting down military coups in the Philippines, the Americans through Ambassador Platt

were able to negotiate a hard bargain for their bases in that country. Despite popular sentiment against the continued presence of these bases, President Aquino conceded to American demands—no doubt quid pro quo for defence against a military takeover.

While coups are not to be condoned, the creation of cleavages between the military and civilian sectors can only undermine the integrity of the State.

The question for Pakistan is whether the civilian government should seek to strengthen itself by strengthening its democratic structures and mass support or whether it should rely on external forces to keep it in power. Also, will the quid pro quo for Pakistan's civilian ruling elite be abandonment of its nuclear option—an issue of vital national security! The acceptance of Platt as the new American Ambassador to Pakistan will surely provide the unfortunate answer.

Kuwait Embassy Reopened; Pakistan Support Noted

BK1303160791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its pleasure over the reopening of the Pakistani Embassy in the Kuwaiti capital. A news release issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Islamabad today said Pakistan is considered among the friendly countries that wholeheartedly supported the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty. The Pakistani president and the prime minister in particular adopted a principled stand on the crisis. The statement said that the people in Pakistan continuously visited the Kuwaiti Embassy in Islamabad following the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait and offered their sincere services for its independence. Kuwaiti Ambassador Qasim al-Yaqut said that Kuwait [words indistinct] of its history. In view of this, Pakistan's assistance was not only important but substantial as well. He said that with the opening of Pakistani Embassy and other missions, the process of reconstruction will definitely be accelerated and normal life will be restored within the shortest possible time.

Bhutto's Party Protests Against 'Victimization'

BK1303012991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Islamabad, March 12 (AFP)—Supporters of former Premier Benazir Bhutto's party staged demonstrations Tuesday ahead of Senate elections to protest alleged victimization by the Pakistani Government.

About 3,000 members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) rallied in Lahore, the provincial capital, while small demonstrations were also held in Rawalpindi, Faislabad and Sialkot. The PPP intends to hold demonstrations daily in Punjab Province to protest what it calls "excesses" against compatriots in Sindh, the troubled home province of Ms. Bhutto.

PPP Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed led the Lahore rally at which the participants chanted slogans against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the witnesses said.

Pakistan's four provinces are to elect 42 new representatives to the 87-member Senate Thursday, with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) and its allies poised to win the lion's share.

Punjab, Sindh, North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan will elect 10 senators each through a secret ballot of provincial assembly members. Members of the National Assembly will elect two senators from the federal capital territory.

The new set will replace senators due to retire on March 20 after a six-year term. Among the outgoing members is Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who is also to leave the cabinet.

The PPP said Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq ali is "crushing" the party in the southern province—which includes Pakistan's biggest city Karachi—by jailing party leaders and activists on "false" criminal charges.

Five PPP members of the Sindh Assembly had been "abducted" and another five detained ahead of the senate polls, PPP leaders said.

The government, rejecting the kidnapping charges, says those in jail are being held on criminal charges and that the courts are hearing cases against them.

A court in Karachi on Sunday ordered that the five detained PPP provincial assembly members be taken to the legislature to cast their votes in Thursday's ballot for the senate.

Similar orders have been issued in case of Asif Ali Zardari, Ms. Bhutto's husband, to enable him to vote in the National Assembly to elect two senators from the federal capital Islamabad.

Ministers of State for Law, Sports Announced

BK0903154891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Chaudhary Amir Hussain, member of National Assembly [MNA] from Sialkote, and Mohammad Ajmal Khan, MNA from Federally-Administered Tribal Area, were sworn in as ministers of state at a special ceremony in Islamabad today. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was also present on the occasion. Chaudhary Amir Hussain will be the minister of state for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, while Mohammad Ajmal Khan will be the minister of state for sports.

According to a notification from the Cabinet Division, Federal Education Minister Syed Fakhr Imam has been relieved of his additional charge of the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs.

State Ministers Named; Portfolios Not Announced

BK0903093091 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Chaudhary Amir Hussain, MNA [member of the National Assembly] from Sialkote, and Mr. Mohammad Ajmal Khan, MNA from FATA [Federally-Administered Tribal Area], were sworn in as ministers of state at a simple ceremony in Islamabad today. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, was also present on the occasion. The portfolios of the state ministers will be announced later.

Finance Minister on Foreign Debt, Inflation Rate

BK1103165891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Excerpts] The National Assembly this evening passed a bill further to amend the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification from Membership Order, 1977. It empowers the Supreme Court to transfer a case from one special court to another when it is satisfied that (?better) expedience for general convenience of the parties and witnesses [words indistinct] for the aims of justice. It also provides for appeal against the findings, decision and final order of the special court. [passage omitted]

The finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, told the house that the amount of loan owed by the government to the international financing agencies stood at $6.29 billion on the 30th of September last year.

In reply to a question, the finance minister said the rate of inflation on the 31st of January last was 12.8. He said the foreign exchange reserves were $323.5 million, excluding gold, on the 6th of last month. The house is now due to meet again tomorrow afternoon.

Balochistan Official Arrested in Heroin Seizure

BK1403002391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1749 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Islamabad, March 13 (AFP)—An influential Balochistan Province official has been arrested in connection with Pakistan's biggest heroin seizure ever, Minister for Narcotics Control Rana Chandar Singh said here Wednesday. He said a Pakistan narcotics control board squad arrested Ali Jan Notezai, chairman of the district council of Chaghi, bordering Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Mr. Jan was allegedly involved in trafficking 1,743 kilograms (3,835 pounds) of heroin seized in October, the biggest such seizure ever in Pakistan, he said.

In annoucing the arrest, Mr. Singh said the government was determined to "eradicate" drug trafficking and abuse in Pakistan. The United States recently criticized Islamabad's "inefficiency" in dealing with opium growers and drug traffickers in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

Mr. Jan was arrested following the interrogation of three drug traffickers captured October 10 in Chilgazi, near Iranian border, where the record seizure was made, according to official sources in the Balochistan province capital, Quetta. A border police guard and a smuggler were killed and an officer was injured during the October 10 encounter.

The sources said Mr. Jan was charged with murder, attempted murder and violations of the narcotics and customs acts.

Sri Lanka

President Announces Cabinet 'Mini-Reshuffle'

BK1403100091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa announced changes Thursday in his 26-strong Cabinet in a mini-reshuffle that left key ministers unscathed, officials here said.

The only new face in the Cabinet will be Gamini Atukorale, who was given the portfolio of minister of lands, irrigation and Mahaweli development, a statement from the president's office said. He replaces P. Dayaratne, who was moved to head the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare Ministry.

Minister of Ports and Shipping Rupa Karunatilleke was given the key plantation industries portfolio, left vacant by the March 2 assassination of former Minister Ranjan Wijeratne. Mr. Karunatilleke's place was given to Alick Aluvihare who moved from posts and telecommunications, where he was replaced by Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare Minister M.S. Adhikari.

Mr. Wijeratne, who died in a car bomb attack, was also minister of state for defence, a post taken over by Prime Minister Banda Wijetunga last week.

Military Offensive Begins North of Vavuniya

BK1403120791 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Hundreds of Army troops with armored support and air cover are now inching their way north on three fronts in Vavuniya. Military officials in Vavuniya claim that LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] resistance was only light. But latest reports indicated army casualties in a land mine blast near (Ilukkulam). At the same time, civilians in the war zone have been asked to move to safer areas or to congregate in kovils [temples] for safety.

Military sources in Colombo confirmed that Army units were pushing forward in a three-pronged offensive north

of Vavuniya. Troops had advanced a considerable distance on the central front of the offensive where units are thrusting directly north toward Omantai, these sources said. Flanking thrusts are also under way in (Seamadu) and (Sastrikulam) areas. Officials claim that 22 LTTE fighters had been killed in operation so far as the troops pushed northward. With the help of SLAF [Sri Lanka Air Force] helicopter gunship the security forces have destroyed a number of vehicles believed to have been used by the LTTE for transport purposes. Officials were unable to provide the precise number of vehicles destroyed.

Security sources in Vavuniya claimed that the offensive had placed the LTTE under pressure. LTTE groups in Vavuniya are reported to have asked for help from Jaffna units. Meanwhile, according to reports reaching Colombo, three army soldiers were killed and six injured in a land mine blast near (Ilukkulam). Military sources in Vavuniya disclosed that advancing troops had encountered Johnny mines, liberally strewn on the main Jaffna road and byroads leading to north of Vavuniya.

Security forces have also recovered large quantities of military hardware abandoned by the LTTE cadres who have slipped back into the jungle. A large number of LTTE bunkers were destroyed, the sources said. Meanwhile, leaflets have been dropped in areas of operation by the armed force requesting the civilians to move to safer areas such as kovils. More than 2,000 people were reported to have moved to kovils due to operation, security forces said.